

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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DUKW 34 AND M/V CARIBBEAN SEA

* Docket No.: DCA-10-MM-025
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Telephonic Interview of: TINA ROSEBROOK

Conference Room
Sector Delaware Bay
United States Coast Guard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sunday
July 11, 2010

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice,
at 1:47 p.m.

BEFORE: LIAM LaRUE
Accident Investigator

APPEARANCES:

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Health, Safety, Quality and Environment
K-Sea Transportation

BILL GATLEY
Ride the Ducks Philadelphia

RICHARD GLADISH, Chief Warrant Officer
United States Coast Guard

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I N T E R V I E W

(1:47 p.m.)

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2
3 MR. LaRUE: It is about 1:47 on Sunday, July 11th. This
4 is Liam LaRue from NTSB. We are in the conference room at Sector
5 Delaware Bay and we are talking by phone to Tina Rosebrook. Is
6 that correct?

7 MS. ROSEBROOK: That's correct.

8 MR. LaRUE: Okay. And I'm going to have everyone
9 identify themselves please.

10 MR. LAWRENCE: Captain John Lawrence from K-Sea
11 Transportation.

12 CWO GLADISH: Chief Warrant Officer Rick Gladish, United
13 States Coast Guard, Sector Delaware Bay here in Philadelphia,
14 Casualty Investigations Division.

15 MR. GATLEY: Bill Gatley, Ride the Ducks.

16 MR. LaRUE: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF TINA ROSEBROOK

17
18 BY MR. LaRUE:

19 Q. And Tina, how old are you please?

20 A. I am 30 years old.

21 Q. Thirty years old. And were you traveling by yourself on
22 the DUKW that day?

23 A. No. I had my daughter, who was 10, and my niece,
24 who's 12.

25 Q. Okay. Great. And do you remember where you were

1 sitting on the boat, you know, what side?

2 A. I was sitting personally on the right hand side of the
3 boat in the very last seat. I was by the window. There was
4 another gentleman beside me between the girls, then my daughter,
5 Bristol, was on the left hand side on the inside, and my niece,
6 Kristin, was on the outside, left of the very last row.

7 Q. Okay. Great. Do you remember, did you ever -- did you
8 catch the name of the man that was sitting next to you?

9 A. No, I did not catch his name.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He was part of the big group from Hungary, although I do
12 believe by talking to him, he was maybe one of the host families
13 or --

14 Q. Great. That helps a lot. All right. What I'd like you
15 to do please is, if you could, just walk us back through what you
16 remember about the event and all. I'll follow up with any
17 questions after that.

18 A. Okay. We had boarded the vessel at 1:30 at our
19 appointment time and we had finished our tour of Philadelphia. We
20 had gone -- we had stopped right at the entry to the water and
21 picked up another -- the deckhand, which the Captain, Gary, had
22 said that it was regulation to pick up another individual who was
23 going to board with us. We picked up -- I believe his name was
24 Kyle. We had gotten into the water. At this point, Kyle, who was
25 a trainee, was allowed to drive and Gary was facing us, giving us

1 the tour. We were -- we had finished the first leg of the water
2 tour and had turned around.

3 We were almost back to where we were exiting the water
4 and smoke started to pour from the right hand side of the boat and
5 passengers saw that pretty immediately and he yanked Kyle out of
6 his seat and proceeded to work on the engine. The smoke stopped
7 and there wasn't -- I didn't see any sort of fire or anything.
8 The smell of burnt oil was pretty prevalent. He did some things
9 under the dash, so he kind of shut everything off and had
10 announced that at that point that we were, we were going to get a
11 tow.

12 Kyle had gotten into a life vest and got on top of the
13 DUKW boat and since he was working in the compartment, I did see
14 him anchor, anchor us, so at that point we were just, you know,
15 kind of sitting idle. He went by and my daughter, Bristol, looked
16 in the back and she saw Kristin so it was behind her and then
17 Kristin said yeah, you know, you want to look at this, look at
18 what's behind us, and we saw the barge coming. Gary radioed in.

19 I didn't -- since we were in the very last seat, I
20 didn't hear exactly what was said or who he was speaking to.
21 We're just kind of watching this tugboat get, you know, closer.
22 All of the passengers, we start, you know, panicking a little bit,
23 grabbing our life vests. I was, I was able to grab the life vests
24 that were right above me and place them over the heads of both
25 Bristol and Kristin. When I got to that point, the barge hit us,

1 for the first time and it kind of pushed us a little bit and the
2 back end started filling up with water and then the boat, it
3 turned and then the DUKW boat turned. I believe it was to the
4 right but at this point I'm disoriented so I don't know what way
5 it had actually turned and it's on that impact we actually went
6 under and we were taken under water.

7 Before the second impact, I had grabbed a hold of the
8 girls, you know, were trying to keep them close. When we entered
9 the water, they were actually torn from my arms, so underneath the
10 water, you know, trying to get my bearings and, you know, get up
11 and I can feel what I think is the barge kind of on top of me
12 (indiscernible) and rough. I kind of worked my way up. And at
13 the time when I, when I surfaced, I saw (indiscernible) it was an
14 area on the side of the boat that was black rubber. I'm looking
15 at the pictures. It looks like it may have been the tow boat. It
16 kind of hit me again and it took me under the water a little bit
17 and then it passed.

18 At that point, I was out of the water and was kind of
19 swimming towards a big group of people. I can hear my daughter
20 screaming for me, and she was wearing bright green so she was
21 easily recognizable, kind of floating there. And I find a life
22 jacket on the way and kind of make my way over to them. Kristen,
23 she was not wearing her life vest. It had fallen off and she was
24 hanging onto one of those -- the seat from the back, in the back
25 seat that pulls down to make it the stairs, and I had offered her

1 my life jacket at that point and she said no, that she was fine,
2 and then we just kind of held on, you know, reassuring them that
3 everything was going to be okay. And at that point, you know, I
4 started to see the boats and everything so I answered them --

5 Q. No problem.

6 A. -- answered them that, you know, people were coming and
7 that we would be okay. Then we boarded one of the police boats
8 and we were taken up through the ferry entrance.

9 Q. Did you have any injuries?

10 A. Not personally, bumps and bruises. My niece, Kristin,
11 at the time when I had reached her in the water, she was
12 complaining that her foot had gotten caught and it was a little
13 bit sore. It had taken her shoe off. So when we got up into the
14 museum we did let them know, the paramedics know that, you know,
15 it was hurting at that point. At that time she could put some
16 weight on it, so it wasn't, you know, a major injury. We did take
17 her to the emergency room later because as time went on the
18 complaints and the limping started and to find out that she could
19 have a possible fracture in her ankle.

20 My daughter had a quite a large lump on the top of her
21 head and a sore knee, but other than, you know, being shaken and
22 bumped up, there was nothing wrong.

23 Q. Okay. Do you know what hospital you took your niece to?

24 A. The DuPont Children's Hospital.

25 Q. Okay. Great. What I'm going to do, just kind of walk

1 back and ask a few specific questions.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. What can you tell me -- or can you describe the
4 captain's safety brief at the beginning of the tour?

5 A. It was, it was pretty extensive. Basically, you know,
6 that the life jackets on the right hand side -- or I guess the
7 left hand where he would -- that's where he would go; that the
8 children, 90 pounds and under were on the other side. All of your
9 hands and appendages needed to stay in the boat. That was it for
10 the, really the safety part of it, life jackets mostly, and then
11 some rules and regulations about, you know, the quackers.

12 Q. Did he show you how to put on a life jacket?

13 A. No. At least I didn't -- he didn't actually have a life
14 jacket, but he had said just that you put this over over -- but, I
15 don't, I don't know if he had the life vest or not. I remember
16 him saying about putting the hook through the metal and around,
17 but I don't remember specifically if he had the life jacket.

18 Q. Okay. You were seated all the way in the back. Could
19 you hear everything okay that he was saying?

20 A. Yes. We did hear everything.

21 Q. Okay. You talked about the smoke. Could you describe
22 the color of the smoke?

23 A. It was a whitish-gray smoke. I remember, you know, the
24 kids saying that it smelled like peanuts.

25 Q. It smelled like peanuts?

1 A. Yes. Funny thing to remember, I know.

2 Q. And you know, what was the quantity of smoke?

3 A. You know, it's more smoke than you want to see coming
4 out of a boat that you're in, but it definitely wasn't
5 overbearing. Maybe it hit the folks a couple rows back, but it
6 wasn't -- it didn't smoke for very long before, you know, they
7 took care of the situation.

8 Q. All right. You said that you knew the captain had
9 arranged for you to get a tow?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Did he, did he make that as an announcement or how did
12 you find that out?

13 A. He did tell us that we were waiting for a tow. There
14 was a boat, another DUKW boat that had stopped that we had seen
15 previously and offered help and he motioned to them that we were
16 okay, that we had already radioed in for a tow. At that point,
17 the passengers, we're all just talking to ourselves and thinking
18 how ironic it is that, you know, we're on this boat that breaks
19 down.

20 Q. Okay. So once you've anchored and you're sitting there,
21 about how long was it before the first person realized that there
22 was a barge coming up on you?

23 A. It's between -- it's not long between -- maybe five to
24 ten minutes. I do remember trying to text, you know, my family
25 that was there to let them know what was happening, couldn't

1 figure it out, and that was kind of the middle and it, it wasn't
2 long before we saw the barge.

3 Q. So since you were in the back, were you the first ones
4 to notice the barge?

5 A. I feel like we were. Like the process -- and I know
6 Bristol had said this to Kristin and then Kristin, you know,
7 yelled to me. Then as other passengers started hearing, it kind
8 of filtered up through and everybody started turning around.

9 Q. Okay. Do you know if the captain knew at that time that
10 there was a barge coming?

11 A. He knew as it made it -- that the word made its way up.
12 I don't believe that he knew before, but then again, you know, he
13 might have been talking to somebody else on the radio before.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I know at that point he was still trying to deal with
16 making sure that, you know, the engine was okay.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. Nobody expected that.

19 Q. Okay. You said you were pulled out of the water by a
20 police boat?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Do you know how many other people were on the boat with
23 you that got pulled up?

24 A. I believe, I believe there was between seven and nine.
25 I was trying to count everybody. I know that there were us three,

1 two others, a couple, and then the handicapped man that we pulled
2 out.

3 Q. Was he a larger gentleman?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. Do you remember seeing if he walked with a cane?

6 A. He did.

7 Q. He did? Okay. Great. I think that's all the questions
8 I've got right now. I'm going to pass it on to the next person
9 here.

10 A. Okay.

11 BY MR. GATLEY:

12 Q. This is Bill Gatley, Ride the Ducks. Just glad that
13 you're here to give the interview and --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I really don't have any questions.

16 A. Okay.

17 BY MR. LAWRENCE:

18 Q. Tina, this is John Lawrence from K-Sea. I had a couple
19 questions for you. You said that when you -- from what you
20 remember, when you went under and you came back up, that you felt
21 you were actually hit again by -- possibly by the fender -- a
22 fender on a tugboat?

23 A. Yeah. The black rubber part.

24 Q. Do you remember that pretty -- are you pretty sure that
25 it was a fender on the tugboat or --

1 A. I do remember seeing the black rubber. That's really
2 all I could see. Like I said, from the pictures, it looked like
3 it was the tugboat, and just being hit again and then it actually
4 passed me at that point. I was completely free of the barge
5 though. It needed to be on the back and somewhere. I do remember
6 the texture. It was, it was very -- it was kind of like tires
7 on -- you know, when the tread wears off and you see the ridges.

8 Q. Right. Okay.

9 A. It was like textured like that.

10 Q. Okay. And you didn't actually -- did you actually see
11 the -- well, it sounded like you said you did not see the tugboat
12 itself though? I mean, what I'm getting at --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- is did you happen to see any people at all on the
15 tugboat or on the barge?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. No. Even, you know, the first thought of the barge, it
19 was, it was either close enough or I wasn't looking for people on
20 the top but I didn't see anybody.

21 Q. Okay. Thank you very much. That's the only question I
22 have.

23 A. Okay.

24 BY CWO. GLADISH:

25 Q. Ma'am, Rick Gladish with the Coast Guard. How are the

1 children doing?

2 A. They're coping remarkably well. They're retelling the
3 story to almost everybody that they meet, which I think it pretty
4 healthy. I'm obviously with my daughter now but not with my
5 niece, so to just talk to her about, you know, what she's feeling,
6 it seems pretty normal at this point. You know, Kristin is
7 dealing with the ankle injury but, but we're all doing okay.

8 Q. Well, I'm glad to hear that because, I mean, I know
9 it's, it's only a few days that this occurred and I know sometimes
10 that the mind, you know, it -- sometimes things -- you know, you
11 can recollect things that it may take a little bit longer, and is
12 there anything that you would like to add with regard to something
13 we might not have brought up that would be helpful to this
14 investigation?

15 A. No. I had told the investigator this is weighing
16 heavily pretty much on my mind -- I thought maybe I had seen the
17 little -- the gentleman who was missing. As soon as I surfaced
18 the second time and was looking for my girls, I seen maybe a nose
19 and eyes, the top part of the head, and he didn't appear to be
20 struggling at that point, so I focused my attention on finding --
21 you know, locating and visually seeing the girls. When I focused
22 back around to him, he was gone.

23 The investigator said at that point, you know, they
24 hadn't found anything, that he was a strong swimmer, but that's
25 weighing heavily, that he was right out there near me, or could

1 have been. You know, I kept looking through the faces of the
2 crowd to see if, you know, I recognized it and I didn't, but I
3 don't know if that's helpful. I mean, obviously he didn't make it
4 but he was at least out there, you know, past the tugboat with me.

5 Q. I'm going to pass it back to Mr. LaRue from the NTSB.
6 Thank you.

7 A. Okay.

8 BY MR. LaRUE:

9 Q. This is Liam. Thank you very much for that and, you
10 know, on behalf of the NTSB, you know, we're glad you, and your
11 daughter and your niece are okay, and if there is anything else
12 that you think of, you've got my phone number. Feel free to call
13 me any time.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. And I'm going to just acknowledge, is it okay that we
16 recorded this interview?

17 A. Yes, that's fine.

18 Q. Okay. I'm going to shut off the recording. Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
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23
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25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: DUKW 34 and M/V CARIBBEAN SEA
 Telephonic Interview of Tina Rosebrook

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-10-MM-025

PLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE: July 11, 2010

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to
the recording accomplished at the hearing.

Susan Ueberroth
Transcriber