

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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Interview of: DAVID STROBL

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

Friday, July 9, 2010

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice,
at 1:50 p.m.

BEFORE: LIAM LARUE, NTSB
Accident Investigator

APPEARANCES:

LIAM LARUE, Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Marine Safety
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MATT FINE, Lieutenant Commander
United States Coast Guard

JOHN LAWRENCE, Vice President
Health, Safety, Quality and Environment
K-Sea Transportation

GREG BLUMENTHAL, General Manager
Ride the Ducks Philadelphia

SHANE LAWS, Chief Warrant Officer
United States Coast Guard

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I N T E R V I E W

(1:50 p.m.)

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3 MR. LARUE: All right, it is 1:50 in the afternoon.
4 This is Liam LaRue from NTSB. Friday, July 9th. And we're
5 talking to David Strobl.

INTERVIEW OF DAVID STROBL

BY MR. LARUE:

8 Q. David, how old are you?

9 A. I'm sixteen.

10 Q. Sixteen, good. And just like your buddy, if you could
11 just walk us through the events as best you remember, and we'll go
12 from there.

13 A. So, when we wanted to go back to the dock, yeah, the
14 engine stopped, and it started to smoke. And the captain started
15 to repair it or handle it. He tried to start it up again. Yes,
16 the captain tried to start up the boat again.

17 Q. Was he able to start up the boat?

18 A. No. And after a while, the smoke stopped, and we -- so,
19 the captain called out, called for help, but I didn't remember --
20 I don't remember that somebody answered to him. And I think we
21 waited about two or three minutes. Then somebody shouted that
22 there comes a boat, barge. And then we got nervous. And after
23 that, the captain tried again to call help, but it wasn't
24 successful again. And I didn't see, but I think then the younger
25 captain jumped into the water.

1 And maybe before the crash only ten minutes, we wanted
2 to catch life jacket. And but it was hard to get them, because
3 the bags had them. It was being held by that strap that was
4 described before. So, after maybe five seconds, I could pull one,
5 yeah, and I had a hold in my hand, because I didn't have time for
6 pull it onto my head. And then was the crash. And we started to
7 sink. After that, I saw the roof. Okay, it broke, it broke
8 apart, the roof.

9 Q. The roof of your boat?

10 A. Yeah, yeah, and it came down, it started coming down.
11 And we started to turn left to the shore or to the dock. But we
12 gone to the water, and we was -- we were under the water about ten
13 or twenty seconds, I think. And after that, somehow we came out
14 the water, and I saw that ship, the barge go past. And we tried
15 to -- we tried to climb out of the boat, because we were in the
16 boat.

17 Q. You were still in the boat at that time?

18 A. Yes, we went under water halfway. But the boat was full
19 of, pulled down the water, so under the water. Then I could climb
20 up, and I jumped into the water again. And I helped my classmate
21 to climb out, and I gave her a life jacket. And then we started
22 to swim out to the dock.

23 Q. And how did you get out of the water?

24 A. Gabor climbed up, and --

25 Q. Was it a rope, a ladder?

1 A. Oh, he climbed up with the ladder, I think, the fire --

2 Q. It was a ladder?

3 A. Or a hose, a fire hose. Yeah, the fire hose.

4 Q. Oh, it was a fire hose?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So, someone dropped a fire hose down?

7 A. Yeah, he climbed up, and I had my bag and my life jacket
8 in my hand, and we then -- I couldn't climb up, so I started to
9 swim to a lower dock. And then the man and Gabor helped me to
10 climb up.

11 Q. Okay, so someone else helped you to climb at a lower
12 dock?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay, can you tell us what you remember about when you
15 got on the boat what the captain told you about how to put on a
16 life jacket and that type of thing?

17 A. Yeah, he, he tried to explain us how to use the life
18 jacket in the air, but it wasn't very good. And I think that was
19 all he explained.

20 Q. Did you know how to put on a life jacket?

21 A. Not really.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. But the main reason I hadn't, I couldn't pull the life
24 jacket was that we hadn't -- we didn't have enough time.

25 Q. Not enough time, okay. You said that after the engine

1 stopped, you heard the captain call for help on the radio?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you ever hear anybody reply?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And do you remember exactly what he said? Do you
6 remember?

7 A. No.

8 Q. No, okay. Could you hear him talking?

9 A. The captain?

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay, did you -- did you hear any sound signal, like a
13 horn or a bell?

14 A. No, nothing.

15 Q. No? On your boat or the tug or barge?

16 A. Nothing.

17 Q. Let's see. So, the life jacket that you grabbed, you
18 were able to hold onto it the whole time?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay, did you get hurt at all? Do you have any
21 injuries?

22 A. Yes, on my head.

23 Q. You hit your head?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Did you go to the hospital?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Are you feeling okay now?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay, good. Can you swim?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was the first time that you saw the barge?

7 A. About ten minutes before the crash, about two or three
8 minutes before the crash.

9 Q. So, it was pretty close by then?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay, let's see. You said you saw smoke. What color
12 was the smoke?

13 A. It was gray.

14 Q. The person that you saw on the radio, the captain, was
15 that the young captain or the old captain?

16 A. The old captain.

17 Q. The old captain. And you said that you heard someone
18 shout here comes the barge or here comes a boat. How far away was
19 the boat when they said that?

20 A. About 100 meters, yeah.

21 Q. And how long after they shouted did the boat -- did it
22 take for the barge to hit you?

23 A. The time?

24 Q. The time.

25 A. About one-and-a-half minutes.

1 Q. Do you -- were you in your seat all the way up until the
2 accident? You didn't move around?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay, I feel like I have one more question, but I can't
5 think of it right now, so I'm going to pass it around the room.
6 Okay, next is Greg.

7 MR. BLUMENTHAL: I'm not sure if I have any more. We
8 covered, I think, most of the ground that we need to.

9 MR. LARUE: Okay.

10 MR. BLUMENTHAL: So, if I have anything else, I'll ask.
11 Thank you.

12 BY CWO LAWS:

13 Q. Shane Laws for the Coast Guard. After the captain shut
14 the engine off and you were sitting there, did he explain what was
15 going on, what you were sitting there for?

16 A. No.

17 Q. He didn't provide any explanation of why he shut the
18 engine off?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You said you saw the captain using the radio. Could you
21 hear anything coming back over the radio? Could you hear other
22 people talking to him?

23 A. No.

24 Q. No? Okay, that was all I had.

25 BY LCDR FINE:

1 Q. I'm Matt Fine with the Coast Guard. Did you see the
2 captain go get his life jacket?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Yes?

5 A. No.

6 Q. No, okay.

7 A. The younger captain?

8 Q. Either one.

9 A. No.

10 Q. Neither one?

11 A. Maybe, yes, I saw that older captain catch a life
12 jacket, but that was about fifteen minutes before the crash.

13 Q. Okay, it might have been already asked, but what color
14 was the smoke?

15 A. Gray.

16 Q. Gray, it was asked. Thank you.

17 BY CWO LAWS:

18 Q. Shane Laws with the Coast Guard again. One more
19 question. Did you hear anybody in English or in Hungarian shout
20 out that people should put their life jackets on?

21 A. Actually, yeah, but they couldn't pull it down.

22 Q. Okay.

23 BY MR. BLUMENTHAL:

24 Q. I did have one question. This is Greg. Was the captain
25 during most of the anchored time, the stopped time, on the radio

1 trying to, you know, talking and talking and talking?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Or was he just sitting there without --

4 A. He tried a bit, and he sat down. And again he tried.

5 Q. Okay. How many times would you say that he made
6 attempts to talk?

7 A. About three times.

8 Q. Three, okay. Thank you.

9 BY MR. LARUE:

10 Q. Is there anything else that you can think of that we
11 didn't ask you?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay, good. And if you think of something, you can
14 always get in touch with us later. We'll be finished now. Is it
15 okay that we recorded?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Okay, thank you very much.

18 (Whereupon, at 2:07 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Interview of David Strobl

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-10-MM-025

PLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE: July 9, 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.

Debbie Mizell
Transcriber