

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

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Docket No.: DCA-10-MM-025

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Interview of: PETER FARKAS

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

Friday
July 9, 2010

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice,
at 2:52 p.m.

BEFORE: LIAM LARUE
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

MIRTILL MILASIN

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:52 p.m.)

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3 MR. LARUE: All right, good afternoon. It is about 2:52
4 on Friday, July 9th. This is Liam LaRue from NTSB. And we're
5 going to talk to Peter Farkas.

6 MR. FARKAS: Farkas.

INTERVIEW OF PETER FARKAS

7
8 BY MR. LARUE:

9 Q. Farkas, the SH with the S sound, okay. And how old are
10 you, Peter?

11 A. I'm sixteen.

12 Q. Sixteen, great. And, if you don't mind, please, just
13 walk us through the event.

14 A. Okay, when should I -- with what should I start?

15 Q. Maybe tell us about the safety brief that the captain
16 gave you, and then maybe you can jump forward to when you got in
17 the water.

18 A. Okay, okay, so right before we left the station near the
19 river, the captain was -- the captain told us something about --
20 some things about the safety, the life jackets, and he showed
21 how -- so, he tried to show how to put it on, but he didn't put it
22 on, just showed us in the air how to fix it. And just like
23 Mirtill said, he wasn't serious at all. And the life jackets
24 was -- the life jackets were on the top. And there were belts
25 that holded them up. And then we had the tour, and we got into

1 the water, and then we was -- we were traveling, boating.

2 So, we were traveling in the water for a short time.
3 And then the smoke came. And the two people in the front went
4 backwards. And then the captain, that was the other DUKW boat,
5 and the captain shouted that get us help, and the other boat's
6 captain said we will when we get out of the water, but they
7 weren't as fast as the barge. And so we didn't recognize, we
8 didn't realize that the barge was coming; only I don't know half a
9 minute ago, about half a minute before the barge hit us.

10 And right before the barge hit us, I don't know, 10 or
11 20 seconds, everyone was shouting and screaming. And everyone
12 wanted to have a life jacket, but I don't know if anyone could
13 grab one, because of the belts. And I grabbed a belt and threw it
14 from the roof, and then I grabbed a life jacket and heard that
15 my -- one of my teachers Barbara shouted and gave me one, and I
16 dropped her one, and I -- and right after it, I caught one.

17 And I thought I hit my head. And the next thing I
18 remember is everybody is in water, and I know that I will die, and
19 I don't have my life jacket in my arms. I could be under the
20 water, I don't know, for five seconds or a bit more. And right
21 after it, I felt the air and the white massive thing under my
22 hands. And I knew that Mirtill was next to me, and she screamed
23 that oh my God, you are bleeding. And I grabbed my -- I grabbed
24 the life jacket, because it was near me.

25 And I tried to swim, and then I saw, I don't know, I

1 think he or she was a child, and I gave my life jacket to him or
2 her, and because I can swim well. I can swim pretty well.

3 And I saw flip flop that swam, and I dropped it to
4 another child that didn't have a life jacket and said that it
5 won't sink, so grab it. I knew that it won't keep him or her up
6 on the surface, but I knew that if he or she can grab something
7 that won't sink, that it will give him or her hope or, I don't
8 know, safety.

9 And then it took two or three seconds to get out of the
10 water. I swam towards the shore, and there was a big, I don't
11 know, black metal thing. And there was a group of people. I
12 shouted come over here. We'll help you. And they grabbed my arms
13 and pulled me out.

14 Q. Were they on -- they were on like one of the docks
15 there, one of the piers?

16 A. I don't know where they came from. They were on the
17 big, black, metal thing. It was next to the building of the
18 museum.

19 Q. Okay, let's walk back through it. Did you hear the --
20 or you saw the captain trying to make calls on the radio?

21 A. Yes, yes, I saw that he had the microphone in his hand,
22 but I didn't hear that he was trying to call the police or the
23 ambulance or I don't know.

24 Q. So, you couldn't hear what he was saying?

25 A. No, no, I couldn't, but I heard that he said some kind

1 of "wow" or "stop" or I don't know. But it was right before the
2 barge hit us.

3 Q. Any sound signals, horns, anything like that?

4 A. No, no, I don't think so.

5 Q. Okay, so, you grabbed the jacket, got hit in the head?

6 A. Yes, and after it, the jacket was in my hand.

7 Q. So, you grabbed it, and it is remarkable that you gave
8 that to the child that was there. That's amazing.

9 A. I think so, but I'm not sure that it was a child or, I
10 don't know, there was someone.

11 Q. Yeah, well, he's very fortunate that you were there and
12 able to give it to him. You said you got hit in the head?

13 A. Yeah, here and here and it hurts when I touch it here
14 and stuff, but yesterday I felt pain in my back, and I got scars
15 on my right foot, and my other hurts, but it's nothing.

16 Q. Did you go to the hospital?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Do you know what hospital?

19 A. The Hahnemann or -- it's not on there.

20 Q. That sounds right; Hahnemann is a hospital.

21 A. Yeah, yeah, that one. And there was Adrienn and
22 Katalin, not in the same room, but they were there. And there was
23 Barbara Anderson and --

24 Q. She was there as well?

25 A. Yeah, she was there. She didn't injure. She was our

1 chaperone.

2 Q. Okay. How long from the time you stopped until the
3 collision, until the boat hit you?

4 A. I don't know, from five or ten minutes.

5 Q. Okay, I think that's mostly the questions I've got.
6 Okay, nope, nothing from Greg. Nothing --

7 BY CWO LAWS:

8 Q. After the boat -- I'm sorry, Shane Laws for the Coast
9 Guard. I'll remember. After the boat stopped driving on land and
10 entered the water, who was driving the boat?

11 A. Before we got into the water, the younger captain got on
12 board, and I don't remember. I don't remember. I know that when
13 we were in the water, the younger guy drove the boat.

14 Q. Okay, the whole time?

15 A. When the smoke came, then the older one said that he
16 will handle it and go away.

17 Q. Okay, you say you saw and you heard the captain talking
18 on the radio?

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Did you ever hear if anything came back over the radio?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you hear anyone else talking?

23 A. No, no, no.

24 Q. No?

25 A. But I sat in the middle, so --

1 Q. Okay, and did I hear you right that the other DUKW boat
2 that came by actually talked to your captain?

3 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

4 Q. I thought --

5 A. I think they said they will get us help after they --

6 Q. You could hear them talking though?

7 A. Yeah, I know that the two captains were shouting to,
8 yeah, but I don't remember what did they say exactly.

9 Q. Okay, all right, thank you.

10 BY MR. LARUE:

11 Q. Okay, and then the last question we've been asking
12 everybody is if there is anything else you can think of that we
13 didn't ask you about that might be important for us to know?

14 A. I don't know. I don't know.

15 Q. Okay.

16 MS. MILASIN: I have one.

17 MR. LARUE: Yeah.

18 MS. MILASIN: Maybe something like before at the
19 beginning of the ride --

20 MR. LARUE: This is Mirtill again talking.

21 MS. MILASIN: -- the captain was joking like oh, I have
22 goggles, so and but if there is an emergency in the water.

23 BY MR. LARUE:

24 Q. All right, well, thank you. Thank you again.

25 A. Should I write my email address?

1 Q. Yes, definitely. And then, it's okay that we recorded?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. Okay, thank you.

4 (Whereupon, at 3:06 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

IN THE MATTER OF: DUKW 34 AND M/V CARIBBEAN SEA
 Interview of Peter Farkas

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