

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of:

ALLISION WITH STATEN ISLAND
 FERRY TERMINAL MAINTENANCE
 PIER AT ST. GEORGE'S,
 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK BY THE
 FERRY ANDREW J. BARBERI on
 OCTOBER 15, 2003

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DCA-04-MM-001

Thursday,
 October 16, 2003

Staten Island Ferry Terminal
 St. George, Staten Island, NY

INTERVIEW OF:

EDWARD PIAZZA, JR.

PRESENT: BILL WOODY
 MORGAN TURRELL

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. TURRELL: Good morning. This is Morgan Turrell, the Group Chairman for the Operations, NTSB.

We are going to interview a witness here, one of the deck hands onboard the ferry.

And I will start, sir, if you would please kindly acknowledge that we are recording this.

MR. PIAZZA: Yes, you are recording this.

MR. TURRELL: Okay. And would you please say and state your first and last name and spell it?

MR. PIAZZA: My name is Edward Piazza, P-I-A-Z-Z-A, Jr.

MR. TURRELL: Sir, and what is your age?

MR. PIAZZA: Thirty nine.

MR. TURRELL: Okay. And can you tell us what you, what your employment is?

MR. PIAZZA: A deck hand on the Staten Island Ferry, Department of Transportation.

MR. TURRELL: Okay. And how long have you worked for the ferry?

MR. PIAZZA: A little over three years.

MR. TURRELL: Okay. Have you always worked on this particular vessel?

MR. PIAZZA: No, I am TBA, to be assigned.

MR. TURRELL: Okay.

1 MR. PIAZZA: I was assigned this vessel on
2 Tuesday, men's cabin.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And can you tell us what
4 your duties include onboard the ship?

5 MR. PIAZZA: My duties as a deck hand --
6 position, I was to maintain the men's cabin, clean it
7 and make sure it is safe.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Can you tell us the
9 position you, you hold on the vessel as far as your
10 assignment for docking and undockings, whether you are
11 on the Jersey side or Brooklyn?

12 MR. PIAZZA: I have no side.

13 MR. TURRELL: I have no side.

14 MR. PIAZZA: I have no side.

15 MR. TURRELL: So you were sort of the at
16 large, is that correct?

17 MR. PIAZZA: I guess so. I guess you could
18 say that.

19 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Tell me what your
20 emergency station is?

21 MR. PIAZZA: Off the top of my head, I can't
22 even think.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

24 MR. PIAZZA: I will be honest with you.

25 MR. TURRELL: Can you tell us specifically

1 where you were onboard the vessel at the time of the
2 accident?

3 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, sir. I was in the men's
4 room, I had gotten some toilet paper, you know, papers
5 on the floor, sweeping.

6 MR. TURRELL: Okay. I would like to step
7 back, if you would, to the time when you first reported
8 to work on Wednesday, which was about what time?

9 MR. PIAZZA: One thirty.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay, 1:30. Take us through the
11 day starting out at 1:30, with as much detail as you
12 possibly can, up to the time when you exited the vessel
13 on Wednesday.

14 MR. PIAZZA: Okay. At 1:30 I swiped in, a
15 little after one. Walked over to the vessel. I think
16 she was in Slip 5 at the time. I got onboard, I
17 changed into my uniform. I went up to Staten Island
18 pilot house, I signed in. Said hello to Captain Smith.
19 And then I proceeded to go to the men's cabin, make
20 sure it is clean, my relief had cleaned it. And just
21 walked around the boat, got a cup of coffee, the vessel
22 went under way, went to Manhattan, checked the men's
23 cabin, the boat was unloaded, make sure no passengers
24 were in there. And back to Staten Island to do the
25 same thing. Walked around the boat in-between, walked

1 around to make sure everything is okay. Nobody is,
2 there is nothing out of the ordinary is going on, I
3 guess. The same with the three o'clock out of
4 Manhattan. And wasn't looking out any of the windows,
5 I just, I, I can't explain it to you. You know when
6 the boat is approaching, it is like you got it in --
7 o'clock, I would say. I went to the men's cabin just
8 to check again, and there are no windows on the boat in
9 the men's cabin, so, I didn't even know how close we
10 were to the dock. The next thing I know, I am on the
11 floor.

12 MR. TURRELL: Did you, you fell over, you were
13 knocked down.

14 MR. PIAZZA: Knocked, knocked to the floor, I
15 don't even know.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Please continue.

17 MR. PIAZZA: And I got up. I heard, well, I
18 heard a lot of commotion. And I saw people running to
19 the stern of the boat. I stepped out, somebody, a
20 male, female, I don't know, fell, there was stampeding
21 on that person. I picked them up. I kind of just
22 shoved them down with the rest of the passengers and I
23 went to the bough of the boat. And I was on the --
24 deck of the boat. I looked down, I almost fell where
25 the steps were, I looked down and saw, it was a woman

1 decapitated, laying there. I couldn't see the bough of
2 the vessel there was so much debris. Then ran up to, I
3 yelled up for the police, I yelled up the bridge deck,
4 you know, for the PD. I can't think of her name now.
5 She came down. She came running down, one of the
6 police officers onboard. And I told her, I have only
7 got one DOA, and there is a gentleman sitting at the
8 bottom of the steps. I know she went to the, she
9 climbed down. I went to the pilot house. I got up to
10 the pilot house. Mike was at the control of the vessel
11 at this time. Richie was standing off to his left. I
12 said don't, I said don't move the boat, there is no
13 bough. And I said we have, I know we have a DOA and
14 call for, call for help.

15 Mike, I remember, saying, shit, shit, shit,
16 shit. Sorry for my profanity.

17 MR. TURRELL: No, go ahead.

18 MR. PIAZZA: I don't remember if Richie
19 acknowledged me or not. I then ran back down below,
20 trying to get the passengers to go mid ship to the
21 stern of the boat. I went out onto the saloon deck, I
22 think Mike had yelled get a line out to the tugboat
23 that happened to be in the slip. I looked over and I
24 could see that the bough was intact and I yelled up to
25 the windows of the pilot house, from outside, I said,

1 Mike, the bough is intact. But, you know, the tugboat
2 was trying to get a line, trying to get onboard, I
3 guess, help, whatever they could do. People were
4 crowding up to the front of the back. Again, I, you
5 know, I told them to get in the back, trying to stay
6 calm at the same time. And passengers asking if the
7 boat is sinking, what happened? I don't know. I told
8 them the boat is not sinking. Just go to the back of
9 the boat, you know.

10 I went back up to the pilot house. Mike says
11 he is trying to get in touch with the engine room. I
12 didn't see Richie in the wheelhouse at this time. I
13 don't know where Richie was. I grabbed the radio, it
14 was working and I ran down below, when I hit the main
15 deck, I looked out, I thought at first when I looked
16 from the back, you know, from the saloon deck down,
17 that we just hit and bounced off and just collapsed the
18 front. I didn't know the extent of the damage to it.
19 I had gone down below and saw it and the boat was gone.
20 That is what I said, it is gone. And I went to the
21 engine room. Everybody there was okay. They were
22 doing whatever they do in the engine room. I don't
23 know. I told them Mike is trying to get in touch. The
24 radio, my radio wouldn't work down there. Their radio
25 wasn't working. The sound, the PA system wasn't

1 working. The, the phone down there wasn't working
2 either.

3 I made sure everybody was okay. I went back
4 upstairs. I just looked at the, you know, passengers
5 that climbed over the seats, just missed the body.
6 Looked around down there and see still walking, who was
7 hurt. I didn't take -- after that. And then we were
8 going up somehow, going up and down, trying to help. I
9 remember calling my mother, telling her, you know, you
10 are going to hear something, I am okay. I heard off of
11 my radio, I got power and I am just starting which, the
12 pilot house was talking and got to the dock. Assisted
13 where we could, where I could anyway.

14 Not much I can do, you know, the fire
15 department trying to do what they could do. I don't
16 know what time it was after that, sometime after that
17 they took me to the, they put me in an ambulance, and
18 my leg was hurting. My neck hurts. And then that is
19 really it.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

21 MR. PIAZZA: That is all I can remember.

22 MR. TURRELL: So you said you made two trips
23 to the bridge.

24 MR. PIAZZA: I remember makign two trips to
25 the Staten Island pilot house.

1 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

2 MR. PIAZZA: And the first time, who was
3 present?

4 MR. PIAZZA: The first time, both Mike and
5 Richie were present. Mike was at the control, was
6 trying to get control of the vessel.

7 MR. TURRELL: And what, approximately how long
8 have the accident was this?

9 MR. PIAZZA: Geez, maybe, not even five
10 minutes. I can't even tell you how long.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

12 MR. PIAZZA: I took one look at, I would say
13 five minutes, tops.

14 MR. TURRELL: And your impression of who was
15 in charge of the vessel that moment when you first went
16 up there, who was piloting?

17 MR. PIAZZA: Mike. Mike was, Mike was trying
18 to get control of the vessel. I guess off the dock. I
19 don't know what he was, but he was at the control.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

21 MR. PIAZZA: He had control of the vessel.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And you mentioned Captain
23 Smith, Captain Smith was there also.

24 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

25 MR. TURRELL: And try and think back, what,

1 where he was in the bridge and, and --

2 MR. PIAZZA: He was just standing right off to
3 his left.

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

5 MR. PIAZZA: Left and behind. Right where
6 the, I think the radar is in that corner.

7 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Are there --

8 MR. PIAZZA: No, no, he wasn't, he was
9 directly --

10 MR. TURRELL: To the left.

11 MR. PIAZZA: From Mike, Richie was standing
12 right here.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And he was standing
14 assisted or unassisted?

15 MR. PIAZZA: What do you mean?

16 MR. TURRELL: Was he leaning on something?

17 MR. PIAZZA: No, he was standing on his own.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

19 MR. PIAZZA: And then when I mentioned we had,
20 we hit the -- Mike, I don't even know if Richie, I
21 can't remember.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. They both looked like,
23 oh, my God. That is the only way I can describe it,
24 "Oh, my God."

25 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Do you, when you told

1 them and they said, oh, my God, do you think this was
2 the first time they realized there was --

3 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. That was the first time I, I
4 think that was the first time they realized they DOA is
5 onboard, casualties. Because I remember saying DOA and
6 decapitated.

7 MR. TURRELL: How long do you think you were
8 on the bridge that first visit?

9 MR. PIAZZA: Minutes. I was only up there a
10 few minutes.

11 MR. TURRELL: You were up there for a few
12 minutes.

13 MR. PIAZZA: Maybe a minute, two minutes. I
14 told them, there is no bough, don't move the boat.
15 There is a DOA onboard and we are going to need help.

16 MR. TURRELL: What caused you, what motivated
17 you to go to the bridge, at that moment, what, what?

18 MR. PIAZZA: I couldn't see bough of the
19 vessel and the vessel was moving. And I just --

20 MR. TURRELL: Do you know if anyone else also
21 went to the bridge? Do you have any knowledge of
22 anyone?

23 MR. PIAZZA: Not that I know of. I was the
24 only one that went up at that time. I didn't see
25 anybody going up, on the way down.

1 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you hear any alarms
2 at all during the whole process?

3 MR. PIAZZA: I never heard the boat change
4 pitch, nothing. Normally I would hear, you know, the
5 boat slowing down, and you know you are right at the
6 dock almost.

7 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

8 MR. PIAZZA: I must have around a KV buoy,
9 somewhere around that point.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

11 MR. PIAZZA: Is usually when I would go check
12 the men's room on the Staten Island side.

13 MR. TURRELL: Do you recall anyone on the
14 tugboat?

15 MR. PIAZZA: No.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Have you ever had a chance
17 to see any engine department personnel in your
18 transverse back and forth, did you ever see engineers?

19 MR. PIAZZA: No, they were all down below.

20 MR. TURRELL: They were all down below.

21 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. I saw three men down there.
22 I don't even, like really go down below that much,
23 because I don't know how many --

24 MR. TURRELL: Okay. You mentioned you had a
25 radio with you, is that --

1 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

2 MR. TURRELL: -- all the personnel have radios
3 or just --

4 MR. PIAZZA: No, I don't think there is enough
5 radios on the boat for all the crew members. Usually
6 men's room has got one, the, one of the saloon deck
7 deck hands have one, because there is always somebody
8 on station with a radio, you know, in case something
9 does happen onboard the vessel.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay. I just want to ask you on
11 the events leading up to the accident, one of the
12 things we talk about is safety and people's human
13 performance. Can you tell me what you did previous 72
14 hours, your sleep schedule, your normal habits, leading
15 up to the accident?

16 MR. PIAZZA: Okay. The day before, I came in
17 my regular time to work. I went around 10. They
18 didn't they were doing, there was something, where did
19 we go? I don't remember. I know we did a drill. We
20 did a steering drill. There is really nothing new in
21 my life, I just moved. I think I was still unpacking.

22 MR. TURRELL: So, your work schedule typically
23 is one to nine.

24 MR. PIAZZA: It is to be assigned on --
25 personnel two weeks on vacation -- they put me in his

1 spot.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. But, the day before,
3 though, you were working --

4 MR. PIAZZA: I worked Wednesday, not Wednesday
5 Tuesday I worked my regular schedule, and I was off
6 Monday. Thursday off, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
7 Sunday and Monday. I had some personal business to do
8 on Thursday. And my regular schedule off would have
9 been Friday, Saturday, Sunday, but they moved me to a
10 new spot, so I got Monday off.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, you would consider
12 yourself well rested?

13 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, yeah. Nothing out of the
14 ordinary.

15 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Are you, do you take any
16 prescription medication or any sort of --

17 MR. PIAZZA: No, no.

18 MR. TURRELL: That is all I have for now. And
19 Mr. Bill Woody --

20 MR. WOODY: How was your sleep, when do you,
21 try to go back a few days, now this is Wednesday, the
22 accident, what time did you go bed let's say Sunday
23 night?

24 MR. PIAZZA: Sunday night? I don't know my
25 time I went to bed on Saturday. So I really don't know

1 what time I went to bed.

2 MR. WOODY: Was it before midnight, after
3 midnight?

4 MR. PIAZZA: It was after midnight.

5 MR. WOODY: Okay. And did you work, did you
6 work Monday?

7 MR. PIAZZA: No.

8 MR. WOODY: Okay. So you were off Monday.

9 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

10 MR. WOODY: Sleep late on Monday?

11 MR. PIAZZA: No, not really. I usually wake
12 up by five, six, in the morning. Sometime in the
13 afternoon, if I am not running around and I am sitting
14 on the couch, I take a nap, a few hours, you know, like
15 nine, ten o'clock, I am usually starting to fall, get
16 tired and I go to sleep.

17 MR. WOODY: Okay. How about Monday night then?

18 MR. PIAZZA: I don't remember.

19 MR. WOODY: You just don't remember Monday
20 night.

21 MR. PIAZZA: No, I don't remember, I don't go
22 to bed at a set time. I just, when I get tired I go to
23 bed.

24 MR. WOODY: Sleeping on the sofa or watch
25 television.

1 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I will start
2 falling asleep and --

3 MR. WOODY: Do you remember what programs you
4 were watching that night, to give us some clue?

5 MR. PIAZZA: No.

6 MR. WOODY: Okay.

7 MR. PIAZZA: No.

8 MR. WOODY: And Tuesday, Tuesday night?

9 MR. PIAZZA: Tuesday night I was probably in
10 bed by 12 at the latest, maybe.

11 MR. WOODY: By 12.

12 MR. PIAZZA: About 12. Got up, got up at
13 about, I don't know, six, seven o'clock in the morning.
14 -- somewhere in that time -- and then I went about my
15 day. What did I do? I think I cleaned the house.

16 MR. WOODY: Okay. So you went, you went to
17 work at, around 1:30.

18 MR. PIAZZA: About 1:30, yes.

19 MR. WOODY: And you left, you were there until
20 10 --

21 MR. PIAZZA: Ten o'clock at night, yes.

22 MR. WOODY: And went to work again at 1:30.

23 MR. PIAZZA: One thirty.

24 MR. WOODY: Okay. What time did you go
25 Wednesday?

1 MR. PIAZZA: Wednesday.

2 MR. WOODY: The day of the accident.

3 MR. PIAZZA: What time did I sign out or --
4 that I went home?

5 MR. WOODY: Yes.

6 MR. PIAZZA: Around 10:30, or so, 10:40 -- I
7 finished up, gone back, somewhere around 10:30, so I
8 left.

9 MR. WOODY: Okay. Now, the reason for going to
10 the bridge was that you couldn't see the bough.

11 MR. PIAZZA: Correct.

12 MR. WOODY: And you knew the vessel was
13 underway.

14 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

15 MR. WOODY: Was the vessel still making noises
16 at this time because of the impact of the pier?

17 MR. PIAZZA: I don't remember.

18 MR. WOODY: You don't remember.

19 MR. PIAZZA: I heard people crying, people
20 screaming. The deck hands were all trying to get
21 everybody back. One passenger, I remember, he was
22 dressed like a construction worker, I said, you -- I
23 saw piling and what not on the deck, I said, he is more
24 qualified labor wise, I said, just stay here, just keep
25 the passengers back. We may need you to help us with,

1 you know, what is on the deck, you know, and he said,
2 no problem. I will help passengers. We are trying to
3 get the rest of the, one of the deck hands is trying to
4 get the passengers back. There was a detective onboard
5 somewhere, he showed me his badge and he was trying to,
6 you know, keep the passengers back.

7 MR. WOODY: The detective onboard did show you
8 his badge.

9 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, he, he did flash his badge.
10 Tried to make an announcement at the PA, not working.
11 I think that is when I had gone up to the pilot house a
12 second time at that time, grabbed a radio.

13 MR. WOODY: And you said you didn't, when you
14 went down to the engine room, that their phones were
15 not working.

16 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

17 MR. WOODY: And that your radio did not work
18 down there.

19 MR. PIAZZA: No, my radio did not work down
20 there. And their radio wasn't working.

21 MR. WOODY: They have a radio, too?

22 MR. PIAZZA: They had a radio also.

23 MR. WOODY: But, it was not working.

24 MR. PIAZZA: It was, I tried, you know,
25 blowing in mine, theirs wasn't, neither one received, I

1 don't know, mine was dead. Theirs was dead.

2 MR. WOODY: But, at this time were you talking
3 to anybody else with your radio?

4 MR. PIAZZA: No. I tried to raise Mike from
5 down below, that I am down here. There was no comment.
6 There was no response. The Chief was on the phone, I
7 don't know if he was in touch with Mike at this time or
8 not. I remember he was there. The oiler came in. And
9 they were just, I don't know what they were doing. It
10 is too complicated me down there.

11 MR. WOODY: Okay. The police woman, do you
12 remember her name?

13 MR. PIAZZA: Karen. I don't remember her last
14 name.

15 MR. WOODY: Karen.

16 MR. PIAZZA: Karen.

17 MR. WOODY: Last name.

18 MR. PIAZZA: I can't remember.

19 MR. WOODY: Do you always have a police
20 officer riding the boat?

21 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, we usually have two police
22 officers riding the vessel at all times.

23 MR. WOODY: Okay. Did you see the other police
24 officer at any time?

25 MR. PIAZZA: During the accident or during the

1 day?

2 MR. WOODY: Prior to the accident.

3 MR. PIAZZA: I passed him somewhere during the
4 afternoon. I don't remember where I passed him, but I
5 know he was trying, probably do something, I don't
6 know. I don't want to comment.

7 MR. WOODY: But, he did seem to be responding
8 to --

9 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, yeah, he was responding to
10 the situation.

11 MR. WOODY: Okay.

12 MR. PIAZZA: Karen was the first officer on
13 the spot. I think he was right behind her. I can't
14 even be sure of that. But, I remember as she was
15 coming down from the bridge, from the bridge deck,
16 bridge deck, on the Brooklyn side of the vessel, she
17 ran down. I kind of like held her back, I said, there
18 is a DOA, decapitated and there is a guy down, so she
19 wouldn't be, I guess shocked, but she managed to make
20 her way down below.

21 MR. WOODY: And if you were to describing,
22 would that be New York --

23 MR. PIAZZA: That would be the Jersey side of
24 the vessel.

25 MR. WOODY: Now, you did mention about seeing

1 the, the deceased woman and that ladder on the New
2 Jersey side, did you go down that ladder?

3 MR. PIAZZA: No.

4 MR. WOODY: You didn't.

5 MR. PIAZZA: There was only a small portion of
6 the steps left on the Brooklyn side, and she was laying
7 where the landing would have been. And it was almost,
8 I know, because I have seen him on the boat a few
9 times, I have had run ins with the gentleman. He was
10 just sitting in the corner, at the bottom of the steps,
11 unscratched.

12 MR. WOODY: And he was sitting --

13 MR. PIAZZA: He was sitting right on the
14 bottom of the steps on the Brooklyn, right against the
15 Brooklyn wall, just sitting there.

16 MR. WOODY: Okay.

17 MR. PIAZZA: He was just sitting there.

18 MR. WOODY: I see.

19 MR. PIAZZA: Where he came from, I don't know,
20 but he was just sitting there, unscratched.

21 MR. WOODY: But, that was on the --

22 MR. PIAZZA: Brooklyn side. I mean, he was
23 sitting on the Brooklyn side. That is the only portion
24 that was left.

25 MR. WOODY: Okay. I think that is all the

1 questions I have at this time.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who, from the deck
3 crew, did you run into --

4 MR. PIAZZA: I ran into Billy Greenwood.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where did you run into
6 him?

7 MR. PIAZZA: I think it was, I ran into all of
8 the crew members really on the saloon deck. Billy,
9 some of these guys I don't know because I don't work on
10 a regular basis, Jerry, I ran into Selje(ph). I didn't
11 see Danny Ennis around because he was down below. I
12 don't think, he is gone. I am thinking the mate is
13 gone, both mates were down, are usually down on that
14 deck. I didn't see Danny Sylvester either. I only see
15 the three deck hands, including myself, that were above
16 the main deck.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What did you see them
18 doing?

19 MR. PIAZZA: Getting the crowd back. We were
20 all looking down, seeing what was going on and we were
21 just concerned with getting passengers, I saw what
22 damage we could, and yeah, I, the passengers were
23 grabbing life preservers, trying to calm them down.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, you really --

25 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah -- What they were doing, I

1 don't know. I, I didn't, I was running up and down.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you --

3 MR. PIAZZA: I went pass them. Are you all
4 right? Yeah. I kept going.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where are the radios
6 located?

7 MR. PIAZZA: The radios are up in the pilot
8 house, in a box, being charged and if we get onboard,
9 we have got one. And we just clip it on our belt.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And when you do drills,
11 what do you normally do?

12 MR. PIAZZA: It depends on where, what vessel
13 I am on, what I am assigned, you know, because I am, so
14 I go from boat to boat, to dock. So I can be on the
15 boat and they say, all right, you are man in life boat.
16 You are rowing. Or you are doing this, or you are
17 doing that. So, it varies from vessel to vessel.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Please describe
19 the Barberi's position when you first saw the tugboat?

20 MR. PIAZZA: Okay. That was in -- The Barberi,
21 if I can use this as the dock, kind of, the Barberi was
22 coming off the dock like this, swinging, facing
23 Brooklyn, Brooklyn side is actually swinging kind to
24 the stream and the tugboat was coming up along aside it
25 to get a line out.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She was --

2 MR. PIAZZA: The tugboat was in the slip at
3 the time, from what I could see, and they were trying
4 to get a line on our bough, on the Jersey side of the
5 vessel. The vessel was kind of swinging this way, you
6 know, and I could, when I got out front to see where
7 the tugboat was, I am trying to think.

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. PIAZZA: When I first went into the pilot
10 house, we were facing, I think it was this way, and the
11 boat was swinging this way. Mike was trying to back it
12 off.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were you facing the
14 facility, the work facility?

15 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you first went
17 into the pilot house?

18 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. We were facing the
19 facility. And Mike was trying to get control of the
20 vessel. The tugboat was coming up from the slip,
21 trying to get a line out. I could, somebody was
22 talking to him, I don't know who. There was one
23 gentleman, I saw standing on the pylon, I don't know
24 how he got down there. But, he was under, under the
25 pier and the boat was, you know, falling off, I don't

1 know if he was backing it off, I can't even tell
2 you if --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You felt stern way
4 or --

5 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, we were pulling off the
6 stern, you know, New York end was coming out, you know,
7 we were backing out of there. I don't even remember
8 if the engines were on or off.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said somebody was
10 talking to the tug.

11 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. The tug was talking to
12 somebody, I don't know who.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were they on the radio?

14 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, PA, he was screaming over
15 the PA, I have got a line out, watch, you know, I don't
16 know if he was talking to his guys, our guys.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But, you are not sure
18 it was the radio or the PA?

19 MR. PIAZZA: I know he was, I know once I
20 heard him over the PA, he was talking either to us or
21 his deck hands, "Watch out for the debris, watch the
22 line." I remember him saying, "Cap, what do you want
23 to do", over the PA and then I don't remember anything
24 after that.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are there two PA

1 systems?

2 MR. PIAZZA: On which, the tug or --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there one that makes
4 general announcements --

5 MR. PIAZZA: On the vessel? Yes. On our
6 vessel, yes, there is. That was out. So, our PA system
7 was down, on our boat, was down.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

9 MR. PIAZZA: So we couldn't communicate to the
10 passengers.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, you are saying that
12 the tugboat was on the PA.

13 MR. PIAZZA: The tugboat was over his PA
14 system, you know, trying to talk to us.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

16 MR. PIAZZA: You know, trying to get in touch
17 with us, you know, because he saw maybe a deck hand,
18 but who, I don't know, who he was talking to.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Okay.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said you were in
21 the men's room.

22 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As the vessel was
24 approaching.

25 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you get a sense
2 after you passed the KV, of we are -- you know, you
3 said you had kind of like --

4 MR. PIAZZA: Clock time --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You were knew you were
6 getting in.

7 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you notice the
9 vessel slow down?

10 MR. PIAZZA: Not at all.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said --

12 MR. PIAZZA: I didn't --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you see any change
14 in the --

15 MR. PIAZZA: No pitch, didn't speed up, didn't
16 slow down, normally we would -- Right after, you know,
17 like I said that clock in your body tells me to go
18 down there, you know, make my way to the men's room,
19 and I can't remember, like I said, even if I looked out
20 one of the windows. Usually, I am at the KV, I go
21 down.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And normally from that
23 point of the KV, you were passed it, which is the
24 normal place where the --

25 MR. PIAZZA: He would start cutting back on

1 the power.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Back on the pitch or
3 what --

4 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, he would start it
5 running --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How long does it
7 usually take then to get into the slip?

8 MR. PIAZZA: A couple of minutes, five
9 minutes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Five minutes.

11 MR. PIAZZA: I would say, yeah.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And when the collision
13 occurred, you were still on the full power.

14 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you hit on --

16 MR. PIAZZA: I thought he hit, when I got
17 knocked down --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- no change in the
19 power.

20 MR. PIAZZA: No. There was no change.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They were --

22 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. I thought to myself, geez,
23 he hit it hard, but we do have, you know, as I said,
24 you do bang into the slip a little bit, because of the
25 tide, sometimes you just take a rock. You know, if you

1 are not prepared for it, you will get jostled you know.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you couldn't see
3 that he wasn't in the slip.

4 MR. PIAZZA: I couldn't, I didn't know where
5 he was. When I got up, you know, I said, geez, that is
6 a little hard.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then you said when you
8 did go onto the saloon deck.

9 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And before you, just
11 before you ran upstairs, when you thought there was no
12 bough.

13 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You saw the decapitated
15 woman. You said the vessel was still moving, still
16 under power?

17 MR. PIAZZA: I am, I am, I am not 100 percent
18 sure. I don't want to yes or no. I don't remember.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said --

20 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, he had control of the,
21 yeah, the engines were still moving. It was moving
22 back, I don't know -- It was still moving, let me
23 think.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you sense the power
25 was still on?

1 MR. PIAZZA: The power was still on. I sensed
2 the power was still on. And Mike was trying to get
3 control.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that is later.
5 That is when --

6 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah. I couldn't tell which way
7 it was going when I looked down at the bough, because
8 when I looked down, all I saw was rumble and the boat
9 moving on, you know, like, I guess, side to side.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, okay. But, not --

11 MR. PIAZZA: I couldn't see out from where I
12 was looking, I looked, I was looking down to the main
13 deck.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But, your sense was
15 that it was moving --

16 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, I sensed we were still
17 under --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You still were under
19 power.

20 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, under power.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That if the pier wasn't
22 there, it would have just --

23 MR. PIAZZA: No, no, no, no. Not under power
24 that way. I think we were, I think it was, I think it
25 was disengaged at the time we were, not drifting, but.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. When it hit,
2 though, your sense was it was still going.

3 MR. PIAZZA: Oh, when it hit, yes, I sensed
4 that we were still --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There was no slowing
6 between the KV and the --

7 MR. PIAZZA: No, no.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that is usually a
9 period --

10 MR. PIAZZA: Give or take, yeah.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

12 MR. PIAZZA: But, that is, if you meant, it
13 didn't slow down from the KV to impact, no, it did not.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And took you
15 about five minutes in-between the impact and when you
16 went upstairs to the bridge?

17 MR. PIAZZA: If that long. That is the
18 longest I would say it took me to get up there.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or shorter.

20 MR. PIAZZA: The shortest, yeah. Would be
21 about five minutes, yeah.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It had to be five
23 minutes.

24 MR. PIAZZA: Five minutes, yeah, the shortest
25 it took me to get up there.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And when you got up
2 there, then you saw Mike at the --

3 MR. PIAZZA: Mike was at the control. At that
4 point, Mike was at the control.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, five minutes, that
6 would be five minutes after the collision.

7 MR. PIAZZA: After, yes.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: After the collision.
9 Okay.

10 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thanks.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said you went to
13 the pilot house on two separate occasions, correct?

14 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The first time that you
16 went up there, you did see Mike and Richie?

17 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was there anyone else
19 there?

20 MR. PIAZZA: No.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did they appear to be
22 injured in any way?

23 MR. PIAZZA: No. That is one of my first
24 concerns, also running up, I was like, everybody all
25 right. And you can see Mike is the control, Richie is

1 standing, off to his left. And that I --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No blood, no --

3 MR. PIAZZA: No, nobody was injured. There
4 was no blood. The wheel house was in tact. And I
5 didn't see any, you know, I was, I just came up the
6 stairwell, so I stood by the chart table, talking to
7 them from like the stairwell to the, to the --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And how about your
9 second trip up there?

10 MR. PIAZZA: Just Mike was at the control.
11 Richie, I don't know where he was.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So Mike was the only
13 one there.

14 MR. PIAZZA: The second time up there, yeah,
15 Mike was the only one in that pilot house.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Was anyone else
17 showing up at that time or --

18 MR. PIAZZA: No.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let me confirm the boat
20 visits you made were to the Staten Island?

21 MR. PIAZZA: Yes, yes.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Staten Island Control
23 House?

24 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How are you doing

1 today?

2 When I talked to you the other night, you
3 mentioned that you had asked them if they were okay.

4 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you get an answer
6 from either of them?

7 MR. PIAZZA: I think they both, I think they
8 both acknowledged, yeah, we are all right. I don't
9 even know. I am not going to say, I don't want to say
10 yeah, because I don't know. I don't remember. There
11 are a lot of little things I just can't seem to
12 remember.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The men's restroom, is
14 that on the saloon deck or is it on the deck --

15 MR. PIAZZA: That is on the saloon deck.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. It is on the
17 saloon deck.

18 MR. PIAZZA: About mid ship.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mid ship, so you would
20 have come out, you ran forward, and then you ran up the
21 ramp, up to the bridge deck.

22 MR. PIAZZA: Correct.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then pretty much,
24 so, the actual distance from you had to go was pretty
25 short.

1 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. But, it is on the
3 saloon deck.

4 MR. PIAZZA: At a full run, it took me maybe
5 not even 20 seconds to get from the men's cabin to the
6 steps leading down to the main deck. If that long.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, you went up to the
8 bridge, pilot house, prior to even going down to the
9 main deck --

10 MR. PIAZZA: Right. Correct.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You acknowledged what
12 had happened and then went up.

13 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, it was a fairly
15 short period.

16 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

18 MR. PIAZZA: Like I said, maybe five minutes,
19 tops.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

21 MR. PIAZZA: By the time I was up there.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you have been on
23 this boat for just a few days?

24 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, I have worked on the boat
25 in previous occasions, you know, a day here, an

1 overtime day from, you know, calling the boat for an
2 overtime day.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is all I have.

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you recall seeing
6 either of the mates?

7 MR. PIAZZA: At the time of the accident?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or any time during
9 the --

10 MR. PIAZZA: No, I saw Bobby walk, I didn't
11 see Dave at all. I thought Dave was gone. I didn't
12 see Dave or Danny and I thought they were gone, when I
13 saw the wreckage. Bobby was trying to attend to
14 somebody, I thought Bobby was hurt, he had blood on
15 him, I thought it was his, but it was somebody else's.

16 After I came up from the engine room, I did run into
17 Bobby, somewhere in that chaos. Some, I can't even
18 tell you how soon after. I did see Bobby and I didn't
19 see Dave at first. I saw Dave later on, I saw Danny
20 later on, but, my first thought was they are gone.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you ever seek them
22 out, I mean, did you ever try to call them on the radio
23 or look for them?

24 MR. PIAZZA: No. I was just, at that point,
25 like when I was on the main deck, it was just like,

1 there were bodies, you couldn't, you know, and then
2 somewhere after that, I ran into Dave somewhere.
3 Danny, I ran into at the very end, when we got to the
4 dock.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you started out
7 that day, how many trips had the ferry made? Was that
8 just one trip to Manhattan?

9 MR. PIAZZA: Let's see, we made the 1:30,
10 there was, it would have been our second trip.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second trip.

12 MR. PIAZZA: Trip back from Manhattan.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How were the prior
14 trips? The docking and everything?

15 MR. PIAZZA: Fine.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All routine.

17 MR. PIAZZA: All routine, yeah. Nothing out
18 of the ordinary.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing at all?

20 MR. PIAZZA: Nope.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And before you started
22 the day, you said you ran into the captains?

23 MR. PIAZZA: Richie, yeah, when I saw him then
24 he was up in the wheel house.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you have a little

1 conversation.

2 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, hi, how are doing, okay.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was his demeanor?

4 MR. PIAZZA: Normal. Normal.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing to notice at
6 all?

7 MR. PIAZZA: I didn't see anything different.

8 Richie, I mean, worked on a regular basis. The only
9 thing I noticed he had shaved his beard. That is it.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

11 MR. PIAZZA: Like the day before, I am looking
12 when I was doing lookout, looks like Richie And I
13 double checked, like on the sheet, is that you,
14 Richard? Oh, you shaved your beard, and he said, yes,
15 had to. That is the only thing different about the
16 man.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And when you ran up to
18 the pilot house, and you saw, you saw Mike Gansas at
19 the controls.

20 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And Richie was
22 standing you said just behind --

23 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, just behind him, like if I
24 am standing here, he was right here.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And he was yelling

1 shit, shit, shit.

2 MR. PIAZZA: No, Mike had said, shit, shit.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mike.

4 MR. PIAZZA: When I had told him we had a DOA.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Did Richie say
6 anything at all, that you can recall?

7 MR. PIAZZA: I don't remember. I remember
8 Mike because I was looking at Mike at the time and
9 Richie was, you know, I kind of looked quick at Richie,
10 looked at Mike, it is still a little bit of blur, but I
11 remember looking more at Mike. He was at the controls,
12 he is the captain.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How did Richie seem,
14 if you can remember, how did he, did you take note of
15 how he seemed at the time?

16 MR. PIAZZA: He looked fine. He looked
17 normal, but in a state of shock, you know, like, I
18 don't know. A little bit of shock, I guess, when I
19 told them about the DOA, you know,, we had a DOA,
20 because I was still in shock, too. I was still like a
21 robot, I guess.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were you bleeding at
23 all?

24 MR. PIAZZA: No.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you happen to

1 notice if either of them were bleeding?

2 MR. PIAZZA: No, none of them were bleeding,
3 because I didn't see any blood on them. Pilot house
4 was in tact.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you really didn't
6 work with Richie --

7 MR. PIAZZA: No, either one of them I didn't
8 work on a regular basis. I would see them on the dock,
9 that is it.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

11 MR. PIAZZA: They were never my assigned
12 captain.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And on your second
14 journey back to the pilot house, could you see Richie
15 Smith anywhere?

16 MR. PIAZZA: No.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And when you got there
18 only Mike was still on the control.

19 MR. PIAZZA: Only Mike, yeah.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you ask where
21 Richie went?

22 MR. PIAZZA: No, didn't even think where
23 Richie was.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

25 MR. PIAZZA: Furthest thing from my mind where

1 Richie was, I wasn't even thinking that.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. And he was
3 alone there still.

4 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, Mike was alone in the pilot
5 house.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Did you notice
7 anybody else going or coming from the pilot house?

8 MR. PIAZZA: No.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you know where, do
10 you know why where Mike was on the journey, when it
11 first started back towards Staten Island?

12 MR. PIAZZA: No, no. I don't know that.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. TURRELL: Any questions?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have one question.

16 The first, the second visit to the wheel
17 house, Mike Gansas was at the controls?

18 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I know you were
20 there a brief time, can you tell us where he was in the
21 bridge, and what he was doing to, with the controls?
22 Do you have any recollection of what controls he was
23 operating --

24 MR. PIAZZA: No.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was he at the front

1 center console?

2 MR. PIAZZA: Right, front center console.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

4 MR. PIAZZA: Trying, he had one hand on the
5 wheel, and the other one was by, you know.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

7 MR. PIAZZA: So he was trying to maintain
8 control of the vessel.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He was maintaining,
10 through the compulsion and --

11 MR. PIAZZA: Right, he was just trying to
12 control the vessel.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And --

14 MR. PIAZZA: I guess you would say maintain
15 some steerage, you know.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. Did he at
17 any time ever relate to you any loss of maneuvering or
18 loss of power, did he say I am having trouble
19 controlling or was there any --

20 MR. PIAZZA: Something with the engine. There
21 was something he said about the engines. And I don't
22 know what.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was that the first
24 visit or the second visit?

25 MR. PIAZZA: I think it was the second, it was

1 the second visit.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So he related something
3 to you --

4 MR. PIAZZA: There was something wrong with
5 the engines. I don't know if he was getting power or
6 not, but he was trying, he was trying to raise the
7 engine room. Something about the power.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He was trying to raise
9 the engine room.

10 MR. PIAZZA: It was something, there was
11 something wrong at this point in regards to the
12 propulsion. What it was? I don't know. If he was
13 trying to get power to the other pilot house, but there
14 was something wrong with the propulsion at that point.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now, it is your
16 recollection, once the tug made it to the ship and they
17 were now maneuvering to the vessel into the passengers
18 slip to off load the passengers, do you have any
19 knowledge of who was piloting, Mike was piloting, but
20 where he was, do you know if he was, which pilot house
21 he was in?

22 MR. PIAZZA: No. I don't know. Somebody on
23 the Manhattan side, I know that, but, who, I don't
24 know. I didn't even see Mike or Richie after that.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

1 MR. PIAZZA: At that second time, I didn't see
2 any one of the captains for the rest of the day.

3 (Pause.)

4 MR. TURRELL: I have no further questions at
5 this time. I will, at some point we may have a follow
6 up. We will go back around. I just want to let you
7 know that at some point we may have to do a follow up.

8 MR. PIAZZA: I was sure of that.

9 MR. TURRELL: I want you to be aware of that.
10 And I appreciate it. We are going to go back around.
11 Any follow up questions?

12 MR. WOODY: I just want you to clarify one
13 thing.

14 You were in the men's room, you are knocked
15 down, you get up, take you maybe a minute or so to get
16 up, you got right up.

17 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. I got right up.

18 MR. WOODY: No problems, you weren't injured
19 or anything like that.

20 MR. PIAZZA: I didn't know I was hurt, until
21 after, you know, when I got on the dock I started
22 feeling my leg, my back.

23 MR. WOODY: How long after that did you feel
24 you were injured?

25 MR. PIAZZA: Oh, hours later.

1 MR. WOODY: Hours later.

2 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. After the adrenaline ran
3 out, I started to feel it.

4 MR. WOODY: And where did you go first?

5 MR. PIAZZA: When I left the men's room?

6 MR. WOODY: Yes.

7 MR. PIAZZA: I came out on the Jersey, on the
8 Jersey side of the vessel, picked up passenger --

9 MR. WOODY: You did what?

10 MR. PIAZZA: Picked up a passenger that had
11 fallen, he was getting stepped on, shoved him,
12 literally, just shoved with the crowd again, once I got
13 him standing. And then I ran down the Jersey side of
14 the vessel to the bough.

15 MR. WOODY: To the bough.

16 MR. PIAZZA: To the, yes, to where the steps
17 were.

18 MR. WOODY: And the steps were gone.

19 MR. PIAZZA: They were gone.

20 MR. WOODY: That is where you stopped.

21 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

22 MR. WOODY: You see a decapitated woman.

23 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

24 MR. WOODY: And then what did you do next?

25 MR. PIAZZA: I go up to the, I ran to the

1 Brooklyn side of the vessel, to the steps and I yelled
2 up, you know, somebody get PD. Karen came running
3 down, her partner, I think, was probably right behind
4 her. There was somebody right behind her, okay. And
5 said, DOA, decapitated, and there is somebody sitting
6 on, you know, the steps. I remember seeing Karen.

7 MR. WOODY: Okay.

8 MR. PIAZZA: And I proceeded to continue up.

9 MR. WOODY: Up.

10 MR. PIAZZA: Up to the pilot house.

11 MR. WOODY: Pilot house. How long did it take
12 you get to the pilot house, maybe a minute, half a
13 minute or --

14 MR. PIAZZA: No more than five minutes.

15 MR. WOODY: From -- five minutes, I mean, from
16 that point to get to the pilot house, how long did it
17 take you? From the time you talked --

18 MR. PIAZZA: Maybe a minute. After I stopped,
19 not even a, I would say a minute.

20 MR. WOODY: Okay. You say not even five
21 minutes, you are saying you got to the bridge in less
22 than five minutes, from the time you got knocked down
23 or --

24 MR. PIAZZA: No.

25 MR. WOODY: A little more than five minutes.

1 MR. PIAZZA: From the time I got knocked down,
2 I would say five minutes.

3 MR. WOODY: Say five minutes, okay.

4 MR. PIAZZA: Right. From the time I got from
5 the bough, you know, maybe --

6 MR. WOODY: Were you ever aware of any change
7 in the sound of the vessel?

8 MR. PIAZZA: No. Not at all.

9 MR. WOODY: Like for example, did you hear a
10 sound that you would associate with the collision of
11 the vessel?

12 MR. PIAZZA: I just heard crunch. I can't
13 describe the sound.

14 MR. WOODY: This crunching sound, how long did
15 that continue?

16 MR. PIAZZA: I don't even know.

17 MR. WOODY: You don't know.

18 MR. PIAZZA: No clue.

19 MR. WOODY: And you said you saw --

20 MR. PIAZZA: Who I didn't see -- I didn't see
21 Earl Tolliver. I saw, I saw Greenwood.

22 MR. WOODY: You saw Greenwood.

23 MR. PIAZZA: I saw Jerry Belfiore.

24 MR. WOODY: You saw Tolliver.

25 MR. PIAZZA: Tolliver, Belfiore and --

1 MR. WOODY: Belfiore.

2 MR. PIAZZA: And Greenwood, and then me.

3 MR. WOODY: Five people.

4 MR. PIAZZA: Right. The other two deck hands
5 are -- Danny Sylvester, they were on the main deck. I
6 did not see them or the two mates.

7 MR. WOODY: On the --

8 MR. PIAZZA: Yeah, I --

9 MR. WOODY: You said you seen them.

10 MR. PIAZZA: No, I am sorry. I guess --

11 MR. WOODY: That is okay.

12 MR. PIAZZA: I forgot about Tolliver, I
13 remember I ran into him on --

14 MR. WOODY: You saw -- at one point.

15 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

16 MR. WOODY: You saw Tolliver.

17 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

18 MR. WOODY: And you saw Greenwood.

19 MR. PIAZZA: Greenwood.

20 MR. WOODY: And --

21 MR. PIAZZA: Belfiore.

22 MR. WOODY: Belfiore.

23 MR. PIAZZA: Right, they were all, we were
24 all --

25 MR. WOODY: Four people.

1 MR. PIAZZA: Right.

2 MR. WOODY: And so that is who you didn't see.

3 MR. PIAZZA: Sylvester and --

4 MR. WOODY: And the mates.

5 MR. PIAZZA: The mates were on the main deck
6 and as far as I know. Danny, both Dannys were on the
7 main deck.

8 MR. WOODY: So, Greenwood, Tolliver and
9 Belfiore, are these all deck hands?

10 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

11 MR. WOODY: And then you didn't see the two
12 mates.

13 MR. PIAZZA: I did not see the two mates.

14 MR. WOODY: Okay. That is all I have got.

15 MR. PIAZZA: -- trying to go back.

16 MR. WOODY: Okay. Thank you.

17 MR. TURRELL: Any further questions?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just one real quick.
19 Had you had your lookout?

20 MR. PIAZZA: No, I was, I had the 4:30 look
21 out. Four thirty out of St. George.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Had you --

23 MR. PIAZZA: Yes. The day before I did the
24 lookout with them. And on previous occasions, on
25 different days if they were filling in, you know,

1 different vessels, I have done lookout with them
2 before.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Normally when you are
4 on the bridge as the lookout, who all is up there with
5 you?

6 MR. PIAZZA: The captain is usually up there,
7 the AC.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Both of them or --

9 MR. PIAZZA: Yes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- either one.

11 MR. PIAZZA: Both of them.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you are up in the
15 pilot, you said the PA wasn't working, was in the pilot
16 house beside the crash or the other --

17 MR. PIAZZA: The pilot house beside the crash.
18 I didn't go to the New York side at all.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

20 MR. TURRELL: I think that concludes our
21 interview. I want to thank you again, and we may
22 contact you in the future to follow up. I hope you
23 feel better.

24 MR. PIAZZA: Thank you.

25 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)