

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of: *
*
* Docket No. DCA03MM032
SS NORWAY *
*

Wednesday,
May 28, 2003

INTERVIEW OF:

GIOVANNI AQUINO

PRESENT:

ROB JONES, NTSB
JIM WALSH, NTSB

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. JONES: Okay. This is an interview with
3 Giovanni Aquino. And Giovanni, if you could just
4 again say your safety number and just pick up where, on
5 Sunday morning.

6 MR. AQUINO: Yes. I am Giovanni Aquino, my
7 safety number is 787. And that morning that the
8 explosion happened, I was at the C deck, the Caribbean
9 Deck near at the -- I go into the inside of the galley
10 to look for the garbage -- I have to get to the garbage
11 so that I can pack up all the garbage from the Atlantic
12 Deck. When I hear it, I just got, the ship was flush
13 to the pier, but suddenly the smoke came up from the
14 Biscayne Deck. It smelled clear to me that there was a
15 fire going on in the, fire or something, explosion --

16 The first thing that I did, the first thing
17 that I do to run up to my station, to the galley, at
18 the Atlantic Deck, to try to find out where the fire
19 is. And I talked to Mr. -- and he said, just go to
20 the International Deck. Okay. But, I have to go back
21 to my cabin to get some things, and then I -- and I
22 opened the door and go into the Caribbean Deck, I see
23 the smoke coming from the Caribbean.

24 MR. JONES: Okay. And did you hear any alarms
25 during this time period?

1 MR. AQUINO: After the explosion, after the
2 Atlantic Deck, I hear they sounded, the code Alpha, and
3 the location and -- twice, code.

4 MR. JONES: Okay. And what happened after
5 that?

6 MR. AQUINO: I tried to go to my cabin because
7 I don't have any -- but, the engineer or the fire
8 fighter told me to get out of the ship as soon as
9 possible. So that I run off the ship.

10 MR. JONES: Do you know any more about the
11 engineer, fire fighter, can you identify him more? One
12 of the officers?

13 MR. AQUINO: He was Filipino. But, I don't
14 know his name.

15 MR. JONES: But, you knew he was --

16 MR. AQUINO: He was a member of the fire
17 fighting.

18 MR. JONES: You knew he was was a member of
19 the fire fighting team.

20 MR. AQUINO: Yes. I saw him --

21 MR. JONES: And do you, you gave us a
22 description of where you were, but, do you have
23 something more specific, like do you remember around
24 what room number you were? We have got a chart you can
25 take a look at.

1 MR. AQUINO: Okay.

2 MR. JONES: If you can give us a room number
3 right now, we could pin it down or --

4 MR. AQUINO: Caribbean, Caribbean 1141.

5 MR. JONES: That is approximately where you
6 were when you heard the noise?

7 MR. AQUINO: I was at the C Deck, but it was
8 in, what do you call that? On -- side, going to the
9 store room to get the garbage.

10 MR. JONES: Okay. Okay. We will take a look
11 at that later and try to pin it down.

12 Is that your room number, 1147?

13 MR. AQUINO: Eleven, forty one.

14 MR. JONES: Eleven, forty one is your room.

15 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

16 MR. JONES: Okay. Okay. And you couldn't get
17 there because --

18 MR. AQUINO: No.

19 MR. JONES: Okay. There was smoke around you,
20 around that room.

21 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

22 MR. JONES: You couldn't get to your room.

23 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

24 MR. JONES: Okay. And okay, back where you
25 were now, what did you hear next?

1 MR. AQUINO: After awhile I heard, I heard the
2 sound of the seven shorts and one long blast.

3 MR. JONES: Okay. And you heard that okay from
4 outside?

5 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

6 MR. JONES: Was anybody else around the
7 gangway at the time?

8 MR. AQUINO: I saw the safety officer, he was
9 at the front of the gangway.

10 MR. JONES: Okay.

11 MR. AQUINO: And -- go farther because there
12 may be a second blast. He told us to go farther.

13 MR. JONES: Did he say that to you?

14 MR. AQUINO: No, no, they just go back off --

15 MR. JONES: Okay. So, you just thought that
16 there might be a second blast.

17 MR. AQUINO: Yeah.

18 MR. JONES: Okay. Mr. Wilson, Dave Wilson, the
19 safety officer, is he the one that said --

20 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

21 MR. JONES: Okay. At that time when you were
22 ashore, can you estimate how many people were out there
23 with you, how many other crew members?

24 MR. AQUINO: Only a few --

25 MR. JONES: Anybody follow you out after that?

1 MR. AQUINO: But, I don't know, I didn't
2 remember those things, but, I saw too many crews
3 getting --

4 MR. JONES: But, did the number end up around,
5 you said 20 was out there approximately when you got
6 there, approximately how many more came out?

7 MR. AQUINO: I don't remember.

8 MR. JONES: Okay. And what are your emergency
9 duties?

10 MR. AQUINO: Air supply team.

11 MR. JONES: So you are on a fire team.

12 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir.

13 MR. JONES: Okay. Were you headed, you didn't,
14 I am sorry, you didn't hear the emergency signal until
15 after you were ashore?

16 MR. AQUINO: I am --

17 MR. JONES: Okay. When did you hear the
18 emergency signal?

19 MR. AQUINO: I was outside --

20 MR. JONES: Right. Okay.

21 Do you have anything right now, Jim?

22 MR. WALSH: You heard which code?

23 MR. AQUINO: Alpha maybe twice, Alpha.

24 MR. WALSH: And do they, when they say Alpha,
25 do they say anything else with that?

1 MR. AQUINO: No.

2 MR. WALSH: They just say Code Alpha.

3 MR. AQUINO: Yes. Code Alpha, like indication,
4 but I can't remember the indication, because I was
5 really shocked with the big bang.

6 MR. WALSH: And you remember seeing any other
7 crew members in the area that you were in?

8 MR. AQUINO: When I, when I am running up to
9 Atlantic Deck, to the stairs, I saw some of those
10 people, I remember -- I told them, he opened the door
11 and -- and he, the other gang called fellow workers --
12 He was there --

13 MR. WALSH: Do you recall anything different
14 about the lights?

15 MR. AQUINO: Light had been off and maybe
16 after two, two minutes, the explosion happened. Or
17 three minutes, something like that.

18 MR. WALSH: And did they, did they stay off or
19 did --

20 MR. AQUINO: Just only for maybe, not more
21 than five minutes -- went off and then five minutes, or
22 something, then they came on.

23 MR. WALSH: So, the explosion happened.

24 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

25 MR. WALSH: About two minutes later the lights

1 went off.

2 MR. AQUINO: I am not so sure -- maybe three
3 or something.

4 MR. WALSH: Was the Code Alpha before?

5 MR. AQUINO: Before Code Alpha, after the
6 lights went off. I heard the Code Alpha, they call it
7 twice and then --

8 MR. WALSH: Before the lights?

9 MR. AQUINO: Yes, before the lights off.

10 MR. WALSH: And then you made your way through
11 the dark?

12 MR. AQUINO: There is a low light -- you can
13 follow it, you can see it. It is just everywhere, you
14 can see it.

15 MR. WALSH: Did you smell anything or --

16 MR. AQUINO: Yeah, it was something burning,
17 yes. And the smoke --

18 MR. WALSH: As the air supply person, what are
19 your job, what are your duties?

20 MR. AQUINO: The first thing that is coming to
21 my mind, to get my life jacket, get my life jacket, and
22 I went to the emergency station on Olympia Deck.

23 MR. WALSH: But, your job as an air provider,
24 what do you do for the fire team?

25 MR. AQUINO: We carry out the tanks and then

1 they are going to -- fire fighters who went to the
2 fire.

3 MR. WALSH: How many members in your team?

4 MR. AQUINO: I can't count them.

5 MR. WALSH: Approximately.

6 MR. AQUINO: Ten something.

7 MR. WALSH: Ten people in your team.

8 MR. AQUINO: Yes. That is including the fire
9 fighter --

10 MR. WALSH: Fire fighter and --

11 MR. AQUINO: The air supply team.

12 MR. WALSH: -- air supply team. Okay. So,
13 there are ten guys in the air supply team?

14 MR. AQUINO: Ten guys in the air supply team
15 besides the fire fighting.

16 MR. WALSH: Okay. And do you know if any of
17 the other team members went to their station to supply
18 air for the fire fighters?

19 MR. AQUINO: I didn't.

20 MR. WALSH: You didn't, but do you know if
21 anyone else did?

22 MR. AQUINO: I don't know.

23 MR. WALSH: Okay.

24 MR. JONES: Where were you when you, you saw
25 Mr. Wilson, who told you to go ashore?

1 MR. AQUINO: I was at the galley.

2 MR. JONES: Okay.

3 MR. AQUINO: Located at the -- somewhere mid
4 ship. Every time -- that is where I am. I was
5 standing, I was going there to my cabin, then I told
6 these fire fighters and they said, get off the ship,
7 don't go to the Caribbean Deck because I see a lot of
8 smoke coming out from the Caribbean Deck. So, I went
9 through that way to the gangway. I saw Mr. Wilson, I
10 saw the safety officer, and you know, in front of the
11 gangway and he said, come out of the ship.

12 MR. JONES: Is this the same gangway that is
13 open now, back aft, where they take stores?

14 MR. AQUINO: I --

15 MR. JONES: A different gangway.

16 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

17 MR. JONES: The one further --

18 MR. AQUINO: It was in the Biscayne deck.

19 MR. JONES: Okay. We will take a look at the
20 plans and you pointed out where you were and where you
21 went to.

22 That is about all I have. Let's take a look
23 at the plans.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you know --

25 MR. AQUINO: I know, I know exactly.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is he thin, is he
2 heavy?

3 MR. AQUINO: He was -- really tall, maybe he
4 was half -- Yeah, he --

5 MR. JONES: With an accent? How does he
6 speak? What language?

7 MR. AQUINO: Something --

8 MR. JONES: Does he have a gold chain around
9 his neck?

10 MR. AQUINO: I am not sure I remember
11 anything.

12 MR. JONES: Okay. Was he, how long have you
13 been aboard?

14 MR. AQUINO: This one for 19 --

15 MR. JONES: Was he a big guy?

16 MR. AQUINO: No.

17 MR. JONES: No, sir.

18 MR. JONES: No. Okay. Let's take a look at
19 the plans.

20 (Pause.)

21 MR. JONES: Is this your room, 1141?

22 MR. AQUINO: Eleven, forty one.

23 MR. JONES: Okay. Right there?

24 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir.

25 MR. JONES: Okay. And you indicated after,

1 where, on what gangway did you out? This is Caribbean
2 Deck.

3 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

4 MR. JONES: Okay. This is Biscayne Deck.

5 MR. AQUINO: Yes, this is Biscayne Deck.

6 (Pause.)

7 MR. AQUINO: I went --

8 MR. JONES: Okay. So your room is D-1141.

9 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

10 MR. JONES: That is your room, D.

11 MR. AQUINO: I know Caribbean 1141.

12 MR. JONES: Okay. So you are your deck is --

13 MR. AQUINO: Caribbean.

14 MR. JONES: Your room is Caribbean, that is
15 the Caribbean.

16 MR. AQUINO: Caribbean.

17 MR. JONES: Caribbean Deck. This is the
18 Biscayne. This is the deck you left the ship from.

19 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir.

20 MR. JONES: And this is the deck you live on.
21 So, how did you get up to this deck and leave the
22 ship? Which way --

23 MR. AQUINO: I went, I went to the Atlantic
24 Deck, going to Caribbean.

25 MR. JONES: Okay.

1 MR. AQUINO: At Biscayne Deck.

2 MR. JONES: Okay.

3 MR. AQUINO: So, one of the guys directed me
4 to go out of the ship, to go out of the ship and he was
5 a fire fighter team.

6 MR. WALSH: Where did you see him? On the
7 stairs?

8 MR. AQUINO: Yes, when I go down to the stairs
9 and up -- from the Biscayne, and he was standing in
10 front of the door.

11 MR. WALSH: And what was the reason you opened
12 the door to Biscayne?

13 MR. AQUINO: I would like to go to my cabin to
14 get some of the things.

15 MR. WALSH: And your cabin was on Caribbean
16 Deck.

17 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir.

18 MR. WALSH: So how come you went from --
19 Biscayne?

20 MR. AQUINO: To get to the stairs, from
21 Atlantic going down to, going down to Biscayne and
22 going down to Caribbean. You have got pass Biscayne
23 Deck before you go down Caribbean Deck.

24 MR. WALSH: Right.

25 MR. AQUINO: So, to get to Biscayne Deck, I

1 opened the door.

2 MR. WALSH: Here is Biscayne Deck.

3 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir. Where is the dining
4 room, I can see the dining room?

5 MR. WALSH: Here is the dining room, wait a
6 minute. In Atlantic?

7 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir. -- dining room.

8 MR. WALSH: Okay.

9 MR. AQUINO: -- dining room, I can see --

10 MR. WALSH: Did you go down the spiral
11 staircase?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- passengers'
13 staircase?

14 MR. AQUINO: I used the passenger and I go to
15 the crew --

16 MR. JONES: The crew.

17 (Pause.)

18 MR. JONES: Okay. So, then you would have come
19 out down here somewhere.

20 MR. AQUINO: Yes. -- here. And when you go
21 down, to the Caribbean Deck -- you go down to the
22 Caribbean Deck.

23 MR. ESQUEA: So when you opened the door, you
24 saw somebody telling you to leave the ship.

25 MR. AQUINO: Yes, sir. He was a fire fighting

1 team --

2 MR. WALSH: So, did you go left or right to
3 leave the ship?

4 MR. AQUINO: Left.

5 MR. WALSH: So you left out here and then
6 where did you go?

7 (Pause.)

8 MR. AQUINO: Caribbean -- I can't sketch it.

9 MR. JONES: Well, this would be, where they
10 take the stores, and you say you didn't, this is the
11 gangway that is out right now, where you are taking
12 these stores. And you say you didn't go out that one.

13 MR. AQUINO: --

14 MR. JONES: Boxes, food.

15 MR. AQUINO: Because this gangway only --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is here.

17 MR. JONES: So, this is the gangway that you
18 went out then.

19 MR. AQUINO: Maybe.

20 MR. JONES: Do you know if there was --

21 MR. AQUINO: It was beside the engine control
22 room, beside the engine control room.

23 MR. JONES: That is here. You went out this
24 one.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You went from here all

1 the way forward and then out.

2 MR. JONES: You came back down, when you came
3 back down, did you come back down this ladder, because
4 that would have -- Did you use the ladder that at the
5 forward end of the dining room?

6 MR. AQUINO: Passengers --

7 MR. JONES: Okay.

8 MR. AQUINO: So -- crew ladder, to the gangway
9 was sitting on your right.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You would come out
11 here. But, you made a left hand turn when you came
12 out. Was there anyone in the gangway area?

13 MR. AQUINO: Yeah, the fire fighter team.

14 (Pause.)

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: More than one.

16 MR. AQUINO: More than one.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Less than five.

18 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, somewhere between
20 two and four.

21 MR. AQUINO: Yes.

22 MR. JONES: Okay. All right, thank you
23 Giovanni.

24 All right, thanks a lot.

25 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)