

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of:            )  
                                  )  
                                  )  
SS NORWAY                    ) DCA 03 MM 032  
                                  )

Miami, Florida

Friday  
June 6, 2003

The above-entitled matter came on for the  
Interview of Jack Verrone (phonetic), pursuant to  
Notice.

APPEARANCES:

For the National Transportation Safety Board:

JIM WALSH

For the United States Coast Guard:

JUAN TORRES

For Norwegian Cruise Lines:

JOHANNAS KERSON (phonetic)

Also Present:

I N D E X

WITNESS:

PAGE:

Jack Verrone - by Mr. Walsh  
                  - by Mr. Torres

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 BY MR. WALSH: Sixth interview, June 6, SS  
3 Norway.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. WALSH:

6 Q Sir, would you please give us your full name  
7 slowly?

8 A Jack Verrone.

9 Q And your safety number on board sir is?

10 A Zero two one.

11 Q And your crew number?

12 A Zero five three.

13 Q And your job on board, sir, is?

14 A Security guard.

15 Q And you've been on board now how long, sir?

16 A One month. Just one month.

17 Q Is this your first ship?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And before you came to the ship what were you  
20 doing, Mr. Verrone?

21 A I was security guard. I did security guard  
22 job in China. I think is January 2003.

23 Q Where in China were you working?

24 A Gong Jea (phonetic).

25 Q Did you receive any special training to be a

1 security guard for the ship?

2 A Actually, I am British Army.

3 Q How long were you in the British Army?

4 A Thirteen years.

5 Q Thirteen years. So when you came to the  
6 ship, had you ever been a ship before in the British  
7 Army?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q When you came to the ship, did you receive  
10 any special training for the ship?

11 A Yes. I did in Bombay.

12 Q Bombay?

13 A Bombay, yes.

14 Q And what was that training, sir?

15 A PSSR.

16 Q PSSR, what does that mean?

17 A Personal Safety --

18 Q PSSR.

19 A RS I don't remember.

20 Q The other you don't know?

21 A No.

22 Q Personal Safety though. What did you do in  
23 that course?

24 A Actually, there's some about the ship and see  
25 what to do in the emergency, something like that.

1 Q So if you saw a man fall overboard from a  
2 ship, what would you do?

3 A Actually, if I saw it, that I'll say man  
4 overboard, man overboard and inform to bridge, then I  
5 just have to look in that point until the other people,  
6 the rescue teams arriving there.

7 Q Very good. What are the emergency signals on  
8 board the ship?

9 A There's seven short blasts and then one long  
10 blast.

11 Q And what does that mean?

12 A It means general emergency signal.

13 Q And what do you do on a general emergency  
14 signal?

15 A This time we are crowd control, so we will be  
16 on scene at this time.

17 Q Crowd control. And how do you know where the  
18 scene is?

19 A Actually, we will receive from bridge by  
20 telephone or walkie-talky.

21 Q The bridge will tell you where to go?

22 A Yeah. Where to go, also tell if we are on  
23 scene so we will know the risk.

24 Q During drills, they sound the signal, the  
25 ship sounds the signal, they tell you on the radio

1 where to go.

2 A Yeah.

3 Q On Sunday, the 25th of May what were you  
4 doing in the morning?

5 A I just wake up, then I shave my -- I brush my  
6 teeth.

7 Q What time was that?

8 A Actually, I didn't remember exact time, but  
9 is 6:30 in the morning.

10 Q Approximately 6:30 you woke up?

11 A No. I wake up 6:15 and I shave my beard and  
12 I was just going to put my clothes on.

13 Q Were your lights on when you were shaving?

14 A Yes. The lights were on at that time.

15 Q And you were putting on your clothes?

16 A Not actually, but I going to put on clothes.

17 Q Now what happens?

18 A That time is I heard big blast sound.

19 Q You heard a big blast sound. Can you  
20 describe the sound? Can you make the sound?

21 A Actually, I cannot describe that one, was  
22 like something as my experience in Army, just something  
23 like a bomb.

24 Q Sounded like a bomb?

25 A Actually not. Something is busted. Like a

1 boom sounding.

2 Q It was a boom sound, okay.

3 A Then I just open my door, then I look  
4 outside.

5 Q And your cabin is what, sir?

6 A C-1069.

7 Q It's 1069 C Deck, so you were on the  
8 starboard side.

9 A The starboard side, yes.

10 Q You open your door.

11 A I just open door a little and I just look  
12 outside, but I saw the black smoke coming through the  
13 corridor.

14 Q Could you smell it?

15 A No, I didn't, because it was coming very  
16 fast, so I just closed the door right away.

17 Q So now what happens?

18 A Then I wake up my friend, my friend is  
19 sleeping and one of my friend already wake up.

20 Q So there are three of you in the cabin?

21 A Four in the cabin.

22 Q You, two friends and someone on duty?

23 A Yes. On duty -- not on duty, we are going to  
24 start on duty. I wake up other friend and we put our  
25 clothes on. Before we put on clothes, one of my friend

1 informed the bridge is Code Delta, it means damage or  
2 something.

3 Q So one of your friends contacted the bridge  
4 with a Code Delta?

5 A Yes.

6 Q How did he do that?

7 A Through walkie-talky. We have walkie-talky  
8 in our room.

9 Q You have a radio in your room and he called  
10 Code Delta to the bridge.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Did he say where?

13 A Actually, I didn't -- I just heard the code,  
14 like that.

15 Q Were the lights on?

16 A I didn't remember that one.

17 Q Code Delta, three men in the room.

18 A Four men.

19 Q Four men in the room?

20 A Yeah, four men in the room.

21 Q Now what do you all do?

22 A Then we put our clothes on, then come  
23 Biscayne Deck.

24 Q You went from C Deck to Biscayne Deck?

25 A To Biscayne Deck, yes.



1 Q And you did that because?

2 A Because the smoke is little bit thinning out,  
3 so everybody going out, so we came up to Biscayne Deck.

4 Q Do you hear any announcements?

5 A Yes. The radio, probably, and was from  
6 bridge.

7 Q You heard an announcement from the bridge on  
8 the radio or the public address?

9 A Actually, we listen on the radio.

10 Q And what do you hear?

11 A Okay, Code Delta, Code Delta.

12 Q Did you hear any other codes?

13 A No, I didn't hear because I was hear to hear.  
14 We are mustering at the gangway at that time.

15 Q And the reason you mustered at the gangway  
16 is?

17 A For our security supervisor and security  
18 officer was there, so we muster in there.

19 Q How did you know they were there?

20 A When we come out, that time we come through  
21 the gangway, crew gangway, then we saw the supervisor  
22 and our security officer on outside, so we came.

23 Q So you saw them outside on the pier.

24 A Yes.

25 Q So you came to the crew gangway, you see the

1 security officer.

2 A Security officer and security supervisory and  
3 some other friend outside on the pier.

4 Q Three security?

5 A Yes.

6 MR. WALSH: We're going to stop, because the  
7 lawyers need to talk to one another.

8 (Off the record discussion.)

9 BY MR. WALSH:

10 Q You saw three people outside, three security  
11 people.

12 A Yes.

13 Q Now what happens? You're four together.

14 A Yeah, we are four together.

15 Q And what do you all four do?

16 A So we are detailed our work and at the same  
17 time we receive -- we have to go on International Deck,  
18 so my supervisor and myself went to the International  
19 Deck.

20 Q Did you leave the ship to talk with your  
21 supervisor and the security officer?

22 A Yes. Just outside the pier.

23 Q So you went on the pier and now what happens?  
24 What do they tell you?

25 A Okay, go to International, do a crowd

1 control.

2 Q At International Deck.

3 A International Deck.

4 Q All four? All four men?

5 A No, two men. Me and my supervisor.

6 Q Your supervisor is Pradip?

7 A Pradip, yes.

8 Q So you and your supervisor, how did you get  
9 to International Deck?

10 A We went crew gangway.

11 Q So back on crew gangway and did you make a  
12 right or a left?

13 A Right.

14 Q You made a right and now where do you go?

15 A Then we went to the International Deck. I  
16 was at starboard side -- sorry, is port side, security  
17 supervisory is starboard side.

18 Q And all the way up to International Deck.

19 A Yes.

20 Q And what do you do there?

21 A I check the passengers and I working little  
22 forward to aft.

23 Q How does everything look to you?

24 A Everything is controlled by our other crew  
25 member, so is good at that time.

1 Q Everything looks good on International Deck.

2 A Yes.

3 Q And then do you hear any more signals?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Can you remember how the passengers were told  
6 to get to International Deck?

7 A Yes. This was announced by bridge, we have a  
8 small damage. But actually, I did not hear him.

9 Q Did you hear any signals?

10 A No.

11 Q But everyone is calm?

12 A Yes. Everybody was calm.

13 Q Now what happens?

14 A Then again we are detailed outside, outside  
15 the pier.

16 Q Do you go back outside on the pier?

17 A Again we go back outside to pier.

18 Q Did you go out Norway or crew?

19 A No, just pier side.

20 Q So you went all the way back down to Biscayne  
21 Deck?

22 A Yes.

23 Q You were called by the radio to do that?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Who called you?

1           A     Actually, my supervisor.

2           Q     So he did one side of the International and  
3 you did the other?

4           A     He and myself, we together come outside  
5 again, because there is some crew member already  
6 outside, so we --

7           Q     So now you go outside again.

8           A     Yeah, we control them.

9           Q     How do you do control crew members outside?

10          A     Not to let them out from this area.

11          Q     What area is that?

12          A     Sorry, sir?

13          Q     What area?

14          A     The grass area, sir.

15          Q     So it's you and your supervisor. Anybody  
16 else?

17          A     Then other two, my friends separately come  
18 there and four of them, we control the people who was  
19 in grass area.

20          Q     How long?

21          A     Actually, I do not know. I didn't remember  
22 time, but we are there until 12:00 to 1:00, but  
23 actually tell you what time.

24          Q     Did you see any crew members going to Seamans  
25 Church, to the store?

1           A     We control them to go away just right there  
2 and let them go to the bathroom.

3           Q     To the store or to the pool?

4           A     Not for other things, just we leave them to  
5 toilet, something like this.

6           Q     So they go.

7           A     Yeah, they go and come.

8           Q     How many?

9           A     I cannot remember that.

10          Q     Do you remember if they kept coming off the  
11 ship?

12          A     Yeah. We just put their number and when they  
13 come, we just --

14          Q     So there are four security guards out in the  
15 grass.

16          A     But my supervisor -- later my supervisor went  
17 back to the ship.

18          Q     So now there are three security guards.

19          A     Three security guards and we control all the  
20 crew members.

21          Q     A hundred, a hundred fifty?

22          A     A hundred and nineteen.

23          Q     A hundred and nineteen is the number you  
24 remember?

25          A     Yes.

1 Q And do you remember hearing an abandon ship  
2 signal from where you were on the grass?

3 A I can't remember.

4 Q Do you remember hearing an announcement on  
5 the radio?

6 A I didn't. I don't know.

7 Q Do you remember the captain saying over the  
8 radio he wants his crew members back on board the ship?

9 A Yes. I hear that one, they we bring back to  
10 the Norway the persons who was in the grass.

11 Q What time was that?

12 A I cannot give exact time, but maybe 12:00 to  
13 1:00.

14 Q Do you wear a watch all the time?

15 A Yeah, I was. I wear.

16 Q Do you look at it during the day?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Do you remember looking at it that day?

19 A Actually, that was very crowded and outside  
20 so much, I cannot --

21 Q But you had your radio with you?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q And the radio worked fine?

24 A Yes. The radio worked fine, yes.

25 Q Was there a lot of message traffic on the

1 radio?

2 A Yes, especially we are not speaking, but our  
3 security supervisory and security officer, we just  
4 listening.

5 Q Did you hear Code Alpha or Code Bravo on the  
6 radio?

7 A No, sir. Later we did.

8 MR. WALSH: No other questions. Thank you.  
9 Johannas?

10 MR. KERSON: No questions.

11 MR. WALSH: Juan?

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. TORRES:

14 Q During the time that you were working with  
15 the crew members with the three guards, during the time  
16 that you were with the three guards on International  
17 Deck you saw the passengers?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you hear Code Alpha?

20 A I cannot remember at that time.

21 Q What about a Code Bravo?

22 A Code Bravo is already -- I cannot remember  
23 now.

24 Q What is the emergency signal for the ship?

25 A Emergency general signal is seven short and



1 one long blast.

2 Q You heard that at the beginning?

3 A Yes. At the beginning.

4 MR. TORRES: That's all the questions I have.

5 MR. WALSH: Anybody else?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. WALSH: Thank you very much, sir. That  
8 concludes the interview with Security Guard Verrone.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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