

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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In the Matter of: \*  
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ALLISION WITH STATEN ISLAND \*  
FERRY TERMINAL MAINTENANCE \* DCA-04-MM-001  
PIER AT ST. GEORGE'S, \*  
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK BY THE \*  
FERRY ANDREW J. BARBERI on \*  
OCTOBER 15, 2003 \*  
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Tuesday,  
November 4, 2003

Staten Island, NY

INTERVIEW OF:

KERRY GRIFFITHS

PRESENT:

ROB JONES, NTSB

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. JONES: Okay. This is an interview with Kerry Griffiths. She was a passenger aboard the Staten Island Ferry, Andrew J. Barberi, on October 15. And today is the fourth of November.

And, Kerry, if you don't mind, your age, please?

MS. GRIFFITHS: I am 54.

MR. JONES: Okay. And if you could, Kerry, just take us back a little before the incident, where you were sitting, and if you noticed anything prior to the incident or when you were first made aware something was wrong.

MS. GRIFFITHS: Okay. That day I had been to Liberty Island and Ellis Island and enjoyed my extensive -- And I decided to go over to Staten Island for a couple of reasons. And but, at the time I was a little bit hungry, so, I just thought, well, I enjoyed the other ferry experiences, so I thought I would go, go on another one. And I was sat, I just missed the half past two crossing by five minutes. It was 25 to three. And I was listening to a group of people who sat behind me and they said to me, sorry, they were talking amongst themselves, and I overheard them saying that a good place to sit on the ferry, to have good

1 views was on the right side. So, I, therefore, waited  
2 until I could get onto the ferry, watched where they  
3 went and followed them. I remember going up a flight  
4 of stairs at the back of the ferry, and sitting on the  
5 right hand side. I can't really remember how far up I  
6 actually went along the ferry, but I don't think it was  
7 too far. It was between the middle or towards the end.

8           And from my understanding there is a row of  
9 seats that face towards the sea. I know those seats t  
10 that, you know, face the front on the back of the boat.

11       So, I was, sat on the seat that was looking out  
12 towards the view. I sat there looking at the view. I  
13 saw a couple with a baby. Thinking I had a really nice  
14 time on Ellis Island. So, I started to make notes of  
15 what I wanted to remember about Ellis Island. And  
16 completely unaware of how long I had been on the ferry  
17 for. And, because I didn't have a watch on. The next  
18 thing I heard was there was a really loud noise, and I  
19 just saw everybody running from, from my left. And so  
20 they were running towards the end of the boat. And I,  
21 sorry, I am just turning my other mobile phone off here  
22 so I am not disturbed.

23           And everybody started running, because there  
24 is a row of seats, I wasn't caught up, unless I walked  
25 into the gangway. So, I waited until everybody

1 finished running. I thought initially, God, it sounds  
2 as if it is a bomb or something like that. And I  
3 didn't run, I walked, I walked to the end of the boat,  
4 which didn't seem very far. I looked to the side, and I  
5 could see that we were near land. I could see the, was  
6 intact, and there were no other noises happening at  
7 that time. I could see people around me putting on  
8 life jackets. And my train of thought was I am at the  
9 end of the boat, and I need to get to the front of the  
10 boat to be able to get off it. Not realizing that we  
11 weren't in the dumping bay.

12 So, I, whether consciously or unconsciously,  
13 I walked down the flight of stairs and started to walk  
14 towards the front of the boat. I was on the right hand  
15 side. I was walking, again, I have got no idea of, you  
16 know, the size of the boat, how many people are on the  
17 boat, how many people were on the boat, the layout of  
18 the boat or anything at this stage. All I am thinking  
19 is, I need to get off the boat.

20 I started walking. It was like dusty, I  
21 began to see debris, and lots of seats and wreckage on  
22 the right hand side. On the right hand side of the  
23 boat, I could see that there was a great big gash,  
24 hole, whatever way to describe it, really and you could  
25 see out. And I don't know why, but, I just kept

1 walking, thinking I need to get off this boat now,  
2 because it looks as if it is going to sink. Because it  
3 has got a great big hole in it. And just as I  
4 started to walk forward a little bit more, after  
5 realizing, this is all like split seconds, you know, in  
6 my mind. I can remember looking to my left, and seeing  
7 a gentleman with his arm up in the air. I looked back  
8 and I said, can I help you? And he said, yes. And so  
9 then I looked to my right, and I can see dead bodies,  
10 and body parts and that is all I can see at that time.

11 There weren't many people around. I would say less  
12 than 10, probably around about five. I really wasn't  
13 taking much notice of them.

14 And not far from where Paul was, there was a  
15 lady which I didn't really take a lot of notice of,  
16 because she wasn't saying anything, not saying  
17 anything. Because when I stopped to help Paul, there  
18 was an orange piece of, it looked like plastic chair,  
19 which I put underneath his head. I, first of all, said  
20 that my name was Kerry, and that I was a nurse and do  
21 you want me to help him and he said, yes. I asked him  
22 what his name was, he told me his name was Paul. He  
23 said that he wanted to lay on his back, and I told him  
24 that it would be better for him to stay in the position  
25 that he was in. And I said, do you want me to stay

1 with you and he said, yes.

2 So I put the orange piece of chair underneath  
3 his head so he could rest his head on the orange piece  
4 of chair. And I took, yes, that was the other thing,  
5 I said to him, I wanted him to stay on his side and not  
6 move because he was in the recovery position, so, I  
7 knew that it would be good for him, it would aid his  
8 breathing. So, I explained that to him as well. And  
9 I, what happened then, I started to assess him then. I  
10 could see overall that he was injured, I could see that  
11 he had an injury to his legs. There was no profuse  
12 blood loss, I could see no profuse blood loss. And I  
13 then went into airway breathing, circulation,  
14 disability, environmental mode.

15 I knew that he had an airway because he spoke  
16 to me. I could see that he was conscious because he  
17 told me his name was Paul. And breathing wise, and I  
18 looked at his chest, I could see it rise and fall. It  
19 didn't look to me as if there was no trauma to his  
20 chest. At this stage, I shouted for oxygen. I said, I  
21 need some oxygen. Now there were a couple of people  
22 around, I can't remember if they, anybody answered me  
23 or not. I said, I needed a paramedic and I needed to  
24 get him off this boat straight away.

25 Now, there was another gentleman who, there

1 were this woman screaming, who was near Paul. And he  
2 was with her and I can remember her screaming, thinking  
3 this must be upsetting Paul. So, I, then remembered  
4 looking at the dead bodies around us, getting upset  
5 myself. And looking at the gentleman seeing that he  
6 is very, very distraught and upset. And I was thinking  
7 that I don't particularly want to be looking at all  
8 what is around me and hearing what is around me and  
9 wanting to protect Paul. So what I did then was I went  
10 to get a life jacket, which wasn't far from where Paul  
11 was, a meter and a half, and just what would be softer  
12 for his face and I could then also use the piece of  
13 plastic chair to shield his eyes from the immediate  
14 dead body in front of us, which I did do. And, again,  
15 say I need some oxygen. I am told by a crew member  
16 that they don't keep oxygen onboard. And I say, what  
17 do you mean, you don't keep oxygen onboard? And I am  
18 told that there is no oxygen onboard. So, I say, well,  
19 I need to get him off this boat now. He needs oxygen  
20 now.

21 And I said, can you get me whatever you have  
22 got. I was told, no offense, Ma'am, but I don't think  
23 a plaster would help in this situation. I wanted a  
24 blanket, I took my Gap sweater off because I knew he  
25 was in shock. I put that over him. I went to take

1 his belt off. He was in pain, so I stopped. And I  
2 said, I shouted I needed a belt. Somebody gave me a  
3 belt. I asked this gentleman who gave me a belt, just  
4 to lift his legs up gently, below his waist, so I could  
5 put the belt on, to act as a tourniquet. Because I  
6 knew without the oxygen, he needed from his, you know,  
7 his, his, from his central nervous system, which his  
8 brain and his heart, needed to be supported to keep him  
9 alive in this situation.

10 I also knew that the tourniquet was vital  
11 that there was no profuse blood loss because I knew  
12 that his body had shut down. I checked for  
13 circulation. His peripheral circulation on his pulse  
14 was, was extremely weak, if he had one at all. I  
15 checked it. His central pulse, in his cardioid, and  
16 he had one which was very weak and, so signs of shock.

17 Again, I asked for oxygen, I am told there is no  
18 oxygen. Again, I asked for a paramedic and that we  
19 need to get him off this boat.

20 At this time now, I am new to Paul, and I  
21 know I have to keep him positive. So, I know I have to  
22 assess his consciousness.

23 I just need a minute.

24 MR. JONES: Yes.

25 Kerry, you know, really take your time and if



1       there is an area you don't want to go into, that is  
2       fine, too. We can leave that alone.

3               MS. GRIFFITHS: That is okay.

4               MR. JONES: Okay. You are doing great. Just  
5       really I don't want to take you down a road that is  
6       going to upset you.

7               MS. GRIFFITHS: No, it is okay.

8               MR. JONES: Okay.

9               MS. GRIFFITHS: I know it needs to be done.  
10       -- to help people, so, I am -- I am upset.

11              MR. JONES: Okay.

12              MS. GRIFFITHS: So, I am talking to Paul and I  
13       say to Paul, you are going to be okay. Help is on its  
14       way. And you need to stay with me. And then that,  
15       you know, you need to stay positive, I said, your  
16       family love you and you love your family. I said, who  
17       do you love in your family? And he said to me that he  
18       loved his family and that he loved his mother, Audrey.

19       And I said, I love my mother. And that we were going  
20       to both get off the boat to see our families again. I  
21       said to him, you have got to stay with me, you have got  
22       to stay focused. And I am going to stay with you, do  
23       you want me to stay with you the whole time and he  
24       said, yes.

25              And at this time now, he says to me, that he

1       said are you a tourist? And I said, yes, I was on  
2       holiday here and he said, well, I am a waiter. And  
3       then he said to me, I have lost my legs. And I didn't  
4       know what to say, but I thought if we -- just in  
5       relationship, sorry, I need to tell him the truth. So,  
6       I said, yes, but you don't, you don't think about that  
7       now. You need to concentrate on staying alive because  
8       your family loves you and you love your family.

9               He said to me that he used to run -- and I  
10       didn't know what to say for the best. So, I thought  
11       of, I just said, you are going to have a different  
12       life, but you need to concentrate like you are going to  
13       have a life. And you are going to stay alive and we  
14       all are going to get off this boat. And I was going  
15       to stay with him. This, this was hard and when he --  
16       he said to me, I am beginning to feel dizzy. I am  
17       beginning to feel light headed. And I thought, I think  
18       he is beginning to lose consciousness now. And then I,  
19       I just kind of, just said, right, stay with me, don't  
20       go, stay with me now, concentrate on your breathing,  
21       help is on its way, help is on its way.

22               Hang on a minute.

23               (Pause.)

24               MS. GRIFFITHS: Sorry, my mom was just talking  
25       to me there, trying to remind me of saying things.

1           So, the next thing that, because he said  
2           about his conscious level, and everything, I am trying  
3           to give him encouragement, saying, concentrate on your  
4           breathing, and I don't know why but, just at that  
5           moment, there were more people around. And I don't  
6           know if this happened before or after he started  
7           beginning to lose consciousness or say he was going to  
8           get dizzy, no, no, that is right, he said I am  
9           beginning to feel a little bit dizzy. At that point,  
10          and I am still shouting for oxygen because I know that  
11          the oxygen would make a difference to his  
12          consciousness. Now, I am saying for oxygen, one of the  
13          ambulance, the ferry crew, gave me a box of plasters,  
14          and I saw there is no oxygen there or anything. There  
15          are cotton in there. I look up, and I just say I need  
16          oxygen and there is an ambulance man, obviously coming  
17          in my direction because I obviously have shouted for  
18          oxygen. I say to him, have you got oxygen? And he  
19          said, yes. He gave me the bag. There was a cylinder  
20          of oxygen. Now the cylinders in UK and the cylinders  
21          in the U.S., I don't know if they look the same. So, I  
22          am saying to him are you definitely sure this is  
23          oxygen? And he said to me, yes, it is oxygen. Again,  
24          I say to him are you definitely sure this is oxygen and  
25          he says, yes.

1           He picks a plastic bag with some tubing,  
2           which I can see there is no mask attached. I can see  
3           the mask that I need, so I pick that up, unravel it,  
4           give him the tubing, tell him to attach it to the  
5           oxygen and tell him to put it on high flow oxygen. I  
6           put my finger over the non rebreathable bag to fill it  
7           with oxygen and I put it on Paul's face. Now, within  
8           minutes, whatever, but, I can see that Paul has a  
9           positive response to this oxygen. He says to me, dust  
10          is going in my face, can you wipe my face because  
11          obviously the oxygen is blowing in his eyes, there is  
12          dust in his eyes. So, I wipe his face off. I put the  
13          mask back on his face. I can see it is having a  
14          positive response in his color and his vitals. So, I  
15          am pleased at that.

16                 I then say to the ambulance man, we need to  
17          get him on a stretcher, we need to get off this boat.

18          They have a stretcher, he is on the deck. He is on a  
19          clear surface. I say, I need to put a collar on him.  
20          He hands me a collar to protect his C spine. I put a  
21          collar on him to protect his C spine. I tell the  
22          ambulance men we need to do a log roll. I am told, no  
23          offense, Ma'am, pointed to his leg and because I  
24          wanted to say, I didn't care whether he has or not, he  
25          needs to be log rolled and I can't say it because it

1 will upset Paul. I say, we need to log roll him.

2 Well, prior to this, when the ambulance men  
3 arrived, and the oxygen came, there were more,  
4 obviously emergency services around, and I believe it  
5 was one of the gentleman, I don't know who it was, a  
6 fireman or an ambulance technician, who accidentally  
7 kicked Paul's foot. And obviously to get to this lady  
8 who was screaming, but kicked his foot and Paul said,  
9 ow, ow, ow, ow and I know the nerve endings were still  
10 attached. So, I told this fireman or ambulance person,  
11 whoever it was, to back off. And then I stretched my  
12 body to protect him. And that was another case of  
13 information that I think that you should know about.

14 But, to go back to the ambulance men and the  
15 log roll. So they know, there is a stretcher in front  
16 of this, his C spine is protected. I have got one guy  
17 at the head, I am in the middle, I have got another guy  
18 at the end. And I say, right, on my count, we will  
19 roll. And then I say, no, you are at the head, it  
20 should be on your count. So, I am waiting for him to  
21 say, one, two, three, roll, and he is not. So, then I  
22 say, right, okay, on my count, we are going to go one,  
23 two, three, roll, which we then do. So, we rolled  
24 him, strap him on the stretcher. He is, obviously what  
25 was left of his legs were there and I say to them, it

1 is all goes. So, everything goes with Paul. And he  
2 has got a blanket on him. I am carrying the oxygen,  
3 one ambulance technician is carrying one side and  
4 another ambulance technician is carrying the other  
5 side. As far as I know, one is called Mike and the  
6 other one is, I think it is Phil or Rob, I can't  
7 remember. And we are now clambering over rumble,  
8 because I say we need to get him off the boat now. We  
9 get to the docking bay at the boat, and there is a  
10 gentleman stood there. He turns around and he says,  
11 take him over to one side, he needs to be triaged.  
12 There are not many people around at all at this stage,  
13 hardly anyone at all. And I say, no, he is not being  
14 triaged, he needs to go to the hospital now, as soon as  
15 possible. He tells me, no, he needs to be triaged,  
16 take him over there. I want to tell him he has got no  
17 legs, he needs to go to hospital now. But, obviously,  
18 I can't because it will upset Paul. So, I pull back,  
19 the blanket and say is that triage enough for you. He  
20 then says, go, go, go, go, go.

21 So, myself and the two ambulance men and Paul  
22 are now in an ambulance, we are safe in the ambulance.

23 There is one driving, I am with Paul's head. He  
24 remains on the portable oxygen and there is another guy  
25 who is holding the bounces of tourniquet. Now, I know

1 the tourniquet is quite high up, but, I know where his  
2 legs are viable and where they are not viable from,  
3 but, because I am so aware of his shock status and I  
4 want to keep him alive and I don't want him to arrest,  
5 that I know as long as we have a certain time limit,  
6 that that tourniquet can be released. And we were well  
7 within that time limit. So, I am also aware that there  
8 is no profuse blood loss. So, my concern is to keep  
9 his torso and his heart and lungs viable and alive,  
10 with the oxygen that we had, the same on the boat.

11 So, while we are in the ambulance, I say to  
12 the ambulance technician, put a drip up there and give  
13 him something for pain. And he says to me, that he is  
14 not a paramedic, which in an ideal world, he would have  
15 been and he would have been able to do those things,  
16 but he wasn't. So, we weren't in the ideal situation,  
17 so I then say, make sure that we go to the best  
18 hospital for the best service to this guy. I am now  
19 holding Paul's chest because it is obviously rocking  
20 about and it is painful for him. I am protecting him  
21 again. And as soon as we get to the ambulance, the  
22 hospital, which seems to take quite a long time, we are  
23 talking to Paul. I have already got all of his  
24 details, as he has given all his details to me on the  
25 boat. Because he said to me, you know, if I die, can

1 you me, can you give, you know, can you speak to my  
2 mother for me. And we, we, on the, on the ambulance,  
3 we speak of allergies and things like that and tell the  
4 ambulance technician that I have already got all of  
5 these details, as regard to his family, where he lives,  
6 how old he is, that type of thing.

7 We get to the casualty department, I hand him  
8 over to the official, I say who he is, and I would like  
9 to get on some scrubs to go in with him and follow  
10 through. I am told to go and wash my hands and come  
11 back and I am refused then to where I was, where I  
12 handed over the details. And, and that is the last I  
13 was able to speak to Paul.

14 I speak to the ambulance men and I say to the  
15 ambulance men, and, you know, what about my talk, what  
16 should I do? Shall I speak to his family? I have  
17 handed all the details over to officials, they say  
18 leave it with them. I say to them, how do, what do I  
19 do now? Do I get back to the ferry? And they say they  
20 can't take me back to the ferry. I am extremely upset  
21 because I wanted to be with him. I am told I couldn't.  
22 I realize that there, he is now in the best hands. He  
23 is with doctors, and nurses who are going to operate on  
24 him and do the best for him. I am still extremely  
25 upset, so, I speak to a casualty nurse, who obviously



1 realizes that I am really upset. She said to me,  
2 look, this is going to be a major incident, this is the  
3 first person who has come in through the door. There  
4 are going to be loads more. You know, there is no  
5 point in you waiting around. I say, how do I get back?

6 She said you can get a taxi, or you can get a bus.  
7 She explains all this to me. I say to her, look, I  
8 really would like to know if he is going to live or  
9 die. She said to me, here is my number, give me a  
10 call, leave it until tomorrow, because it is going to  
11 be chaos, chaos here tonight. We don't know how many  
12 casualties we are going to deal with.

13 And at that stage, I leave the hospital and  
14 catch the bus back to my hotel. Later on, I am  
15 completely distraught, but I won't go over that because  
16 it is not relevant to the situation. But, what is  
17 relevant is I couldn't wait until the following day to  
18 find out whether he is going to be alive or not. I  
19 speak to Peggy, I know she is on 3:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.  
20 shift. I speak to her later. She tells me that he is  
21 stable. He has been operated on and he is in ICU.

22 I presumed he has been incubated with the  
23 severity of his injuries and the nature of and the  
24 extent of, you know, whether he would live or die.  
25 And I didn't know where it to it from as far as the

1 family, because I knew the officials would be involved  
2 with the family. And the following day, I spoke to  
3 Peggy again, and I said I wanted to be in touch with  
4 the family. She said to me, no, I said to her, I  
5 didn't want to ring because I knew that they would be  
6 upset about the whole situation and I didn't want to  
7 impose. So, I said, I would write a letter. And I  
8 didn't see any need for -- or anything like that. And  
9 then later that day, I wrote a letter, I was just about  
10 to send it, I thought I will just check with Peggy and  
11 speak to Peggy. Peggy, I have written this letter, do  
12 you think it would get there in time, because I am due  
13 to leave for the U.K. on Monday and I would like to see  
14 Paul, now that I know he is okay and alive. Well, I  
15 didn't know he was okay, but I knew that he was alive,  
16 I would see the family. What do you, will it get there  
17 in time so I can record it or registered mail? And  
18 then this is a nine o'clock at night, she said to me,  
19 Kerry, have you not seen the news? Paul is awake and  
20 he is asking to see you. And I am so overwhelmed. I  
21 am so pleased that he remembers. I mean, I knew he was  
22 conscious and lucid, but I didn't know.

23 And that is, I then spoke to the family  
24 immediately that and then was able to see him the  
25 following day. Which made my day. My whole life.

1           And that is, I don't know if you wanted me to  
2 talk anymore, Rob.

3           MR. JONES: No, that kind of covers it, Kerry.

4           What I would like to do is just kind of go  
5 back to the scene a little bit, just verify things we  
6 are already talked about --

7           MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes, of course.

8           MR. JONES: With other interviewees.

9           That was interesting, though, he was the  
10 first, he was the first patient injured into Staten  
11 Island University Hospital.

12          MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

13          MR. JONES: Okay. So it sounds like, it  
14 sounds like your way with the paramedics got him there  
15 pretty fast.

16          MS. GRIFFITHS: Oh, absolutely. I have got,  
17 Rob, never in my entire life have I ever, ever felt so  
18 compelled and so compassionate and protective of  
19 somebody, you know, I haven't got children, you know, I  
20 don't even know if I could liken it to that, that you  
21 have over a child, but all I knew was I had to protect  
22 him and hand him back to his family. And there was no  
23 choice in the matter, he was the first person I saw  
24 with his hands up in the air, who I looked at and I  
25 said, can I help you? As far as I am aware, I think he

1 asked other people, you would have to talk to Paul  
2 about this, but this is from what he, because we have  
3 only spoken about it briefly, I think he asked other  
4 people and their response to him was that help was on  
5 its way.

6 And as far as the position of where he was in  
7 the boat, which I know would be important for you to  
8 know, now, like I say, he was the first person I saw,  
9 there was a lot of -- to the right of me, if there was  
10 a diagram in front of me, it would be easier for me to  
11 be able to point out for you. And but, what I can say  
12 is, is there was a lady, maybe less than a meter  
13 between him and another lady, there was another lady.  
14 And there was wreckage all behind them. And there was  
15 wreckage all to the right of them. But, they were very  
16 clear of the wreckage. They were on the deck. I mean,  
17 I was able to walk up to them without walking over any  
18 wreckage.

19 Now, from what I have seen from a newspaper,  
20 and I didn't even know, when I walked onto the boat, I  
21 walked up a flight of stairs, and walked along and went  
22 to the right and sat down. Now, I didn't know that  
23 there was, if you walk a flight of stairs and you go  
24 along the top, there is another set of stairs where you  
25 walk down. Now, I didn't know that.

1                   Now, I seen footage that part of the stairway  
2 was ripped in half. I have seen that footage. I have  
3 spoken to Paul extremely briefly, and the day we were  
4 reunited, we were talking and I said to him, can you  
5 remember this, can you remember that, and remember this  
6 and remember that. And I said, how did you get to be  
7 where you were? And he said to me, he was on stairs.  
8 So, this is only what I think, I can't say for sure,  
9 but it would maybe make sense that he was on the  
10 stairs, which obviously were affected by the disaster,  
11 and he obviously landed on the deck, and with the lady.  
12 Just, you know, he realized then when he wanted to,  
13 when he obviously fell on the deck, he wanted to move  
14 and realized he didn't have any feet to be able to  
15 move. Because he told me that.

16                   He also told me that he had hold of him a  
17 woman, and that she was screaming and he thought he was  
18 hurting her, so he let go of her. And I don't know if  
19 it is the woman who was near him when, you know, I  
20 found him. I don't know. That are his words, and that  
21 is my version of what I saw.

22                   MR. JONES: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Yeah, Paul  
23 told us that when we first saw him that next day, to  
24 somewhat and again, even that interview, I didn't want  
25 to take too much of Paul's time, because it was the

1 very next morning and even though he wanted to talk, I  
2 wanted to give him some of a break. So, I was planning  
3 on talking to him again one of these days, when he is,  
4 when he wants to, for sure.

5 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes. Yes. I can tell you now,  
6 Rob, I can tell you now, Rob, that, you know, his  
7 story, you know, we were talking and then, I mean, it  
8 is completely the same.

9 MR. JONES: Yes.

10 MS. GRIFFITHS: You know, near enough, near  
11 enough, you know. And I am not, from a very brief  
12 conversation, very, very brief.

13 MR. JONES: Well, just a couple of things  
14 then, Kerry, because you have given me, you know, your  
15 whole story and more. And I really appreciate it.  
16 Just, when you, after the accident --

17 MS. GRIFFITHS: When I --

18 MR. JONES: Yeah, after the vessel hit, you  
19 were still up on that upper deck.

20 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes. I was on the upper deck,  
21 yes, when the vessel hit, yes.

22 MR. JONES: And as you were making your down,  
23 did you hear any announcements?

24 MS. GRIFFITHS: No. Not one.

25 MR. JONES: Nothing.

1 MS. GRIFFITHS: Nothing. There was no, no  
2 horn, no siren, nobody spoke. Nobody spoke the entire  
3 time.

4 MR. JONES: And even if you can, I know you  
5 were busy dealing with Paul.

6 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

7 MR. JONES: After the fact, it took about,  
8 just so you have a time frame, it took about 20 minutes  
9 from the time of impact to get the vessel back to the  
10 dock where the first paramedics could get to you.

11 MS. GRIFFITHS: Is that your understanding?

12 MR. JONES: Yeah, that is what we have pretty  
13 close to.

14 MS. GRIFFITHS: That sounds probably about  
15 right, actually.

16 MR. JONES: So, doing that time.

17 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

18 MR. JONES: Now, I know you were working with  
19 Paul, and doing right by him.

20 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

21 MR. JONES: You said a crew member, you had  
22 asked a crew member about oxygen and he said there  
23 wasn't any.

24 MS. GRIFFITHS: There wasn't any oxygen  
25 onboard.

1           MR. JONES: Now, did he come over to assist  
2 you or did you have to call him over, could you tell he  
3 was a crew member?

4           MS. GRIFFITHS: No, he told me that there was  
5 no oxygen onboard and I said, well, what have you got?  
6 And he said, I don't think a plaster is going to make  
7 much difference here.

8           MR. JONES: What did you mean by, a band-aid?

9           MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

10          MR. JONES: Plastic is --

11          MS. GRIFFITHS: Now, I know, I know it was a  
12 crew member because they went and got me the box of  
13 plasters.

14          MR. JONES: Okay. And then was that --

15          MS. GRIFFITHS: So, it is going to be a crew  
16 member who told me there was no oxygen, because they  
17 went, they knew where to go.

18          MR. JONES: Okay. So, it was, it was a crew  
19 member that went and got the medical kit.

20          MS. GRIFFITHS: I presume so.

21          MR. JONES: Okay. Okay. I know there is not  
22 much in that kit that would have helped that situation.

23          MS. GRIFFITHS: No. No, there wasn't. There  
24 wasn't anything, there wasn't anything at all.

25          MR. JONES: Yeah.



1 MS. GRIFFITHS: And there was no oxygen. And  
2 this is, this is my, my, you know, if anything, you  
3 know, at the end of the day, you know, it would have  
4 been lovely, I didn't even know that we weren't, we  
5 hadn't docked in the bay, so I didn't even know that we  
6 were being moved from the impact to the dock.

7 MR. JONES: Right.

8 MS. GRIFFITHS: But, Paul remembers, because  
9 his line of vision was looking out.

10 MR. JONES: Okay.

11 MS. GRIFFITHS: Of the hole, you know, in the  
12 side of the boat, whereas my line of vision was Paul.

13 MR. JONES: Now do you --

14 MS. GRIFFITHS: But ---

15 MR. JONES: Going back to, do you remember who  
16 gave you the belt, Kerry or where you got the belt  
17 from?

18 MS. GRIFFITHS: No, no, I don't. All I  
19 remember is I asked, I went to use his belt, and I can  
20 remember him being in pain, and hurting, which would  
21 coincide with the fact that he has got fractured, a  
22 fractured pelvis.

23 MR. JONES: Okay.

24 MS. GRIFFITHS: So, I then said, can I have a  
25 belt? I had a belt, and whoever gave me that belt, I

1 can't even remember because my focus was on Paul, but,  
2 whoever, I then had an assistant who lifted him very,  
3 very gently while I put the belt underneath Paul, and  
4 put the belt on.

5 MR. JONES: Was that assistant, a passenger, a  
6 crew member, an uniformed police or anybody?

7 MS. GRIFFITHS: I have got no idea. I didn't  
8 even look at them.

9 MR. JONES: Okay. But, if you had to judge  
10 from your recollection, you said there weren't too many  
11 people down there.

12 MS. GRIFFITHS: No.

13 MR. JONES: So, would your perception be that  
14 most of the other passengers unlike yourself remained  
15 up on that other deck?

16 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes, absolutely. In fact,  
17 there was hardly anyone in the debris and all the  
18 carnage, hardly anyone. Like I say, when I first got  
19 there, there was probably about five and people were  
20 running around, you know, there weren't any, there  
21 weren't anybody --

22 MR. JONES: Right.

23 MS. GRIFFITHS: There was, you know, I didn't  
24 know where everyone had gone. I have no idea where  
25 people had gone. Everybody, well, there was nobody

1 where I was anyway, nobody. And like I say, I have got  
2 no idea how big the boat was, and all I knew is I was  
3 on the right side of the boat, I walked down the set of  
4 stairs, I walked to the front in the aim of getting off  
5 the boat.

6 MR. JONES: Right.

7 MS. GRIFFITHS: And came across Paul.

8 MR. JONES: Any uniformed police officers  
9 going, you know, trying to help others that you can  
10 remember?

11 MS. GRIFFITHS: No, not that I can remember.  
12 No, no, not at all. Not at all.

13 MR. JONES: Okay.

14 MS. GRIFFITHS: Nobody stands out in my mind.

15 The gentleman who was helping the lady who was near  
16 Paul, I can, I would remember his face, if I saw him  
17 again, well, I would do my best to remember his face,  
18 because I can remember looking at him and him being  
19 extremely distressed. And it being the two of us quite  
20 some time, and me saying to him, you know, come on,  
21 hang in there, and I can remember giving him the thumbs  
22 up, thumbs up, saying you are doing a really good job.

23 Stay there, stay there, stay with that woman, I know  
24 she is hurting. And I know it is difficult, because I  
25 was crying, I was upset. I mean, there were dead people

1 around you. You know, there were bodies parts around  
2 you, it was horrible. This poor woman was screaming.  
3 I knew she was fatally injured. I knew that Paul was  
4 critically injured. You know, it was an awful  
5 situation to be in, but there was hardly anyone around.

6 And like I say, I could remember at one point, at the  
7 time when the oxygen arrived, a fireman or an ambulance  
8 man hit Paul's foot, and I told him to back off. They  
9 went to assist to the lady. And I protected his whole  
10 body then.

11 MR. JONES: Okay.

12 MS. GRIFFITHS: But, Paul, when I found him,  
13 was completely conscious. He had his eyes open, he  
14 was, he knew his name, he told me his address. He  
15 never lost consciousness. Just before the oxygen  
16 came, he told me, he was feeling a little bit  
17 lightheaded. And like I say, about the oxygen, I  
18 couldn't believe that there was no oxygen on the boat.

19

20 MR. JONES: Well, I tell you --

21 MS. GRIFFITHS: I couldn't --

22 MR. JONES: I tell you what, Kerry, this leads  
23 us to a good point here, usually what we will ask  
24 especially either crew members or passengers like  
25 yourself, or any injured, if there is any, any

1 recommendations or anything you would like to see  
2 changed that would help an incident like this, you  
3 know, what would that be?

4 MS. GRIFFITHS: It would be oxygen, without  
5 doubt. I am, from my own personal point of view, my  
6 own personal point of view is on any kind of vessel  
7 that carries that amount of people, you should have  
8 crew members who are trained in first aid, who can  
9 administer oxygen, who have some sort of basic life  
10 support training. I mean, I was lucky enough, I, I had  
11 advanced life support training. But, in that situation  
12 all you needed was airway breathing, circulation. Now,  
13 you, there is no point in looking at circulation if you  
14 haven't got breathing. He was breathing, but with  
15 breathing, you need oxygen and when a patient is  
16 shocked. Now if that situation was to happen, you  
17 know, it travels half of hour in the sea, if somebody  
18 had a heart attack, the first thing they would need is  
19 to be supported with oxygen because the heart is  
20 deficient of oxygen. So, a crew member on that boat  
21 should be able to administer oxygen. So, without having  
22 this disaster happen, oxygen should have been on that  
23 boat. So, if anything, crew members, you know, you  
24 don't have to have a doctor and you don't have to  
25 have intervention.

1 (Tape change.)

2 MR. JONES: Okay. I appreciate that.

3 MS. GRIFFITHS: You know, that is my, my, and  
4 you know, I gave an interview and to, is it the Staten  
5 Island --

6 MR. JONES: Advance.

7 MS. GRIFFITHS: Advance.

8 MR. JONES: Yes.

9 MS. GRIFFITHS: The Staten Island Advance the  
10 day I left for the U.K., because I wanted to say to a  
11 thank you to Paul and his family for looking after me  
12 the way that they did. The whole support I had while  
13 I was in America from the hospital, they provided me  
14 with accommodation, they allowed me to phone my mother  
15 who was in Spain. I wanted to thank the, not the  
16 paramedics, but the ambulance technicians. I wanted to  
17 thank all the doctors who saved his life and who tried  
18 to save other people's lives and who saved the other  
19 people's lives on that ferry. I wanted to be able to  
20 do that. And I wanted to say about the oxygen on the  
21 boat, because I do think it was so important.

22 Now, the reporter, Melissa, asked me if in my  
23 opinion if there was oxygen on that boat, at that time,  
24 if more lives could have been saved. And my response  
25 was it is not for me to say. All I know is that

1 oxygen would have been an extremely valuable commodity  
2 to have had on that ferry, on that day, of that  
3 disaster.

4 MR. JONES: Okay.

5 MS. GRIFFITHS: I don't think, you know, at  
6 the end of the day, a lot of emphasis has been placed  
7 upon the tourniquet that kept Paul alive. But, in my  
8 mind, if he hadn't had the oxygen when he did, from the  
9 ambulance crew, you know, he would have began to slip  
10 into unconsciousness, you know, and I, and I think it  
11 would have been a different story now.

12 MR. JONES: Okay. And Kerry, just to, I think  
13 we talked about this, but, when you gave put the  
14 tourniquet on, both legs together?

15 MS. GRIFFITHS: Both legs were together.

16 MR. JONES: With one tourniquet. And what, up  
17 on the thigh, is that how high it was?

18 MS. GRIFFITHS: It was just below his pelvis,  
19 because he said, when I tried to remove his belt, he  
20 said to me, ow, so, that is when I thought, well, I  
21 don't want to cause him anymore hurt, so that is when I  
22 said about a belt, and like I say, I put a belt on and  
23 I know with tourniquet that you can release the  
24 tourniquet and his blood flow is viable, it will reach  
25 where it is suppose to go, regardless. But, I was

1 concerned about the two legs being strapped together  
2 because both of his legs were injured. So, there is  
3 no point of you putting a tourniquet over one leg. It  
4 would have to be over both to support his upper system  
5 and keep that oxygen to his vital organs. But, like I  
6 say, his system had shut down. His whole system, that  
7 is his body way of saying, I have been injured. And I  
8 think the nature of his injuries as well, and well,  
9 also that, you know, it wasn't a profuse blood loss.  
10 Can you understand what I am saying? If you, you know,  
11 stab somebody and then take the knife out and blood  
12 starts squinting, you have got arterial flow, well, if  
13 you apply direct pressure to that to stop it. This  
14 wasn't the case of this situation. This was to support  
15 his measure.

16 MR. JONES: Okay.

17 MS. GRIFFITHS: Okay.

18 MR. JONES: Yeah, I am following you pretty  
19 good, Kerry.

20 MS. GRIFFITHS: And, you know, I am extremely,  
21 extremely upset about the whole situation. I wish I  
22 could have been more for other people. But, like I  
23 say, there, the decision was taken out of my hands.  
24 Paul, Paul was the first person I came across and he  
25 was the person I helped. I didn't really decide, I



1        stayed with the whole time and I wanted to stay with  
2        him the whole time. And I am so glad that he is alive.

3                MR. JONES: Yeah, and I think you did the  
4        right thing for all concerned, yourself and Paul.

5                MS. GRIFFITHS: Well, I don't know if I did do  
6        the right thing. I just have been honest with what I  
7        have told you I did and whether it was the right thing  
8        or not, you know, all I can say is that, you know, I  
9        knew he needed oxygen, you know, and that was my  
10       priority. I didn't know how far we were away. And I  
11       thank God we got oxygen when we did.

12               MR. JONES: Yes. Well,

13               MS. GRIFFITHS: I think, you know, at the end  
14       of the day, he is alive. And he is going to have a  
15       different life, but his family is so beautiful and so  
16       wonderful, and they are so grateful that he is alive  
17       and I really do think, you know, even though he is  
18       going to have a different life, well, he is grateful to  
19       be alive and he has just started his journey as coming  
20       to terms with himself. And I am as well of this whole  
21       tragic accident. And, you know, I hope that, you know,  
22       what I said to you now, you know, makes a difference  
23       and if there is anything I can do in the future, then  
24       just please, just ask.

25               MR. JONES: And the same here, Kerry. Any

1 time you feel if you wanted to, you have got my e-mail,  
2 and you do have a phone number, but you can always  
3 e-mail something.

4 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

5 MR. JONES: Whether you, whether you just want  
6 to ask a question or if you have something that you  
7 remember that you want to say, that would be fine, too.

8 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes. The other thing, Rob, I  
9 don't know if you can help me, I have spoken to Mike as  
10 far as he said to me about a lawyer and things like  
11 that, remember I said to you I wasn't sure if I was  
12 able to talk to you without the presence of lawyer and  
13 Mike said to me, no, you are a good guy, you know, you  
14 are investigating, you know, as far as I, for me, and,  
15 you know, I have been to see a psychiatrist, I am on  
16 medication myself. I am going to terms with the  
17 incident, myself. And I am not at work at the moment.

18 It is too early to say whether I suffered from post  
19 traumatic stress, or --

20 Now, what do I do? I know there is this  
21 Maritime law, do I need to put in that claim, what do I  
22 do as far as a lawyer is concerned? Do I need a lawyer  
23 who can do this for me? What would your advice be?

24 MR. JONES: Well, I can't really advise you  
25 which way to go, Kerry, with regards to, you know, a

1 legal, if you have a legal problem. What I can do is  
2 talk to one of our, like disaster assistance specialist  
3 and I can talk to them about it and e-mail you back or  
4 have them call you.

5 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes, please.

6 MR. JONES: If you would like me to just stay  
7 with it, I can e-mail you back. But, I can't really  
8 advise you one way or another to, you know, seek any  
9 type of legal advice.

10 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes. Because I don't know if,  
11 you know, I hope to return to, you know, a normal life.

12 MR. JONES: Right.

13 MS. GRIFFITHS: You know.

14 MR. JONES: Well, you know, if, you know, that  
15 is for your own decision and, in talking with your own  
16 doctors and your family, but at the same time, if you  
17 follow the papers here at all, they have already added  
18 up, it is about 1.3 billion dollars in lawsuits that  
19 are --

20 MS. GRIFFITHS: No.

21 MR. JONES: Yes.

22 MS. GRIFFITHS: No.

23 MR. JONES: America dollars.

24 MS. GRIFFITHS: Oh, my God.

25 MR. JONES: So, and a couple of those were

1 people that were not even physically injured, although,  
2 you know, have other problems they are confronting.

3 But, anyway, I will, what I will do is, you  
4 know, you have asked the question, and I will ask our  
5 legal, our transportation disaster system people, just  
6 to, just to give you a background.

7 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

8 MR. JONES: Okay.

9 MS. GRIFFITHS: Well, what will happen, do I  
10 need to go to court or anything? Will this happen in  
11 the future?

12 MR. JONES: That, Kerry, I wouldn't, as far  
13 as, as far as our side of it, it is not a court issue.  
14 It is, this wouldn't end up in courts for the NTSB.

15 MS. GRIFFITHS: No.

16 MR. JONES: This, you know, the extent of our  
17 investigation is conducting phone calls with  
18 yourselves, or on scene with people and then we just  
19 write a report.

20 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

21 MR. JONES: Anything else outside of that,  
22 would be, you know, if there was other people involved,  
23 you know, I don't know what the Espositos' plans are.

24

25 MS. GRIFFITHS: Yeah, I know. I mean, they,

1       they haven't got a lawyer as far as I am aware. I am,  
2       I e-mail on a daily basis to Mike, Paul's dad.

3               MR. JONES: Right, I mean, so, unless, unless  
4       someone was to ask you to come to court for a certain  
5       reason, like the Espositos, if they wanted your, you  
6       know, testimony.

7               MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

8               MR. JONES: Or that could, but that can always  
9       been done, you know, over the phone, you know, sworn in  
10      and stuff like that. I have seen that happen.

11              MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

12              MR. JONES: But, you know, that is all down  
13      the road and that just depends upon each different  
14      story as it is told.

15              MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

16              MR. JONES: And whatever you decide, too, you  
17      know, if you wanted to seek any type of legal counsel  
18      on this.

19              MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

20              MR. JONES: So.

21              MS. GRIFFITHS: Well, you know, just at the  
22      moment, you know, I don't know what my outcome of my  
23      own sanity is going to be at the end of this, you know.

24              MR. JONES: Right.

25              MS. GRIFFITHS: And so, you know --

1           MR. JONES: And you know what, and truthfully,  
2 Kerry, if you are still talking with Michael an awful  
3 lot, Michael Esposito.

4           MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

5           MR. JONES: You could probably talk to him  
6 more about that issue than me, because I really can't  
7 even send you down a path either way of what I think  
8 you should do.

9           MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes, I know what you are  
10 saying.

11          MR. JONES: That really has to come from  
12 yourself and where you are with regards to, you know,  
13 how you feel about how this accident has affected you.

14          MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes. And it certainly has.  
15 But, I wouldn't change it for the world because Paul is  
16 alive.

17          MR. JONES: Yes. And I think you had a big  
18 part in the outcome of that, so, for what it is worth.

19          MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

20          MR. JONES: I do appreciate your time, though,  
21 Kerry and I don't want to take too much of it. Again,  
22 you have got my e-mail and e-mail any time you need to.

23          MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes, no problem.

24          MR. JONES: Okay.

25          MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

1                   MR. JONES: All right, well, thanks a lot and  
2 take care of yourself. I know this was quite, been  
3 quite the --

4                   MS. GRIFFITHS: Yes, yes, I hope, I hope you,  
5 I hope you get to the bottom of this and I hope some, I  
6 don't know if any good come out of it, but, but, I  
7 think people in a tragic circumstance they need to have  
8 answers, don't they?

9                   MR. JONES: That is true. And hopefully we  
10 will be able to find the right ones.

11                   MS. GRIFFITHS: Just to be able to help with  
12 the grieving process and coming to terms.

13                   MR. JONES: That is true.

14                   MS. GRIFFITHS: Okay, Rob.

15                   MR. JONES: Okay, Kerry. Thanks again.

16                   MS. GRIFFITHS: Bye now.

17                   MR. JONES: All right, stay well.

18                   (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)