

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of: *
 *
 ALLISION WITH STATEN ISLAND *
 FERRY TERMINAL MAINTENANCE * DCA-04MM001
 PIER AT ST. GEORGE'S, *
 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK BY THE *
 FERRY ANDREW J. BARBERI on *
 OCTOBER 15, 2003 *
 *

Monday,
November 3, 2003

INTERVIEW OF:

MIKE DRUDA

PRESENT:

MORGAN J. TURRELL, Investigator, NTSB

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. TURRELL: Good morning. It is November 3,
3 we are in the office of James McCanty. We are
4 interviewing the engineer of the Dorothy J. My name is
5 Morgan Turrell, of the NTSB, Group Operations Chairman.
6 And to my right is?

7 MR. COBB: Charles Cobb, Coast Guard Marine
8 Investigations, New York.

9 MS. DEOS: Christine Deos, Coast Guard
10 Investigative Service.

11 MR. MCCANTY: And James McCanty, Mr. Druda's
12 representative today.

13 MR. DRUDA: Mike Druda, the engineer on the
14 Dorothy J.

15 MR. TURRELL: Could you spell your name,
16 please?

17 MR. DRUDA: D-R-U-D-A.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And your age, sir?

19 MR. DRUDA: Twenty five.

20 MR. TURRELL: And would you acknowledge this
21 is being recorded.

22 MR. DRUDA: Yes, I understand it is being
23 recorded.

24 MR. TURRELL: And Mr. McCanty is your
25 representative?

1 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

2 MR. TURRELL: Thank you.

3 Mike, if you would please describe what you
4 do for the Dorothy J?

5 MR. DRUDA: I am the engineer, basically take
6 care of all the mechanical systems, and if there is a
7 breakdown, do whatever I can to fix it.

8 MR. TURRELL: How long have you worked there?

9 MR. DRUDA: For a year.

10 MR. TURRELL: What did you do before that?

11 MR. DRUDA: I worked for Matt Boring, which is
12 a diesel engine distributor and builder.

13 MR. TURRELL: And do you hold a license or a
14 document, Coast Guard license document?

15 MR. DRUDA: No. Just a Z card.

16 MR. TURRELL: How long have you had that?

17 MR. DRUDA: One year.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Can you tell us what you
19 were doing October 15, October 15 the day of the
20 accident?

21 MR. DRUDA: All right, well, I was in the
22 galley, just basically relaxing. And the boat started
23 getting rocked back and forth and there was a lot of
24 noise. Initially I thought we had snapped a line that
25 we were tied to the dock with. And I heard the people,

1 so I started going out, I went out on deck. At that
 2 point, I saw the ferry, at this time it was starting to
 3 peel off of the dock. It had, the pier that it hit. I
 4 looked up and I saw one person in the wheel house
 5 leaning over, looking at the front of the boat. And at
 6 that point, Bob told me, Bob was screaming to start the
 7 engines up. So, I ran downstairs, got the engines
 8 started, ran back up and took our line off the dock and
 9 started getting a head line prepared to be put on the
 10 ferry.

11 There were people on the maintenance pier
 12 screaming I was to get a line on the ferry and as we
 13 were headed out there, I saw somebody in a white shirt
 14 going across the top of the boat. I am not sure where
 15 he came from, but he was headed towards the damaged end
 16 of the boat. And we went over to what would have been
 17 the port side, and got a line on the port bough. And I
 18 had to, they couldn't gÜ¥h_cà

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5 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD _PRIVATE

6 _____

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8 Deos, Coast Guard Investigative Service. MR.
9 MCCANTY: And James McCanty, Mr. Druda's representative
10 today. MR. DRUDA: Mike Druda, the engineer on
11 the Dorothy J. MR. TURRELL: Could you spell your
12 name, please? MR. DRUDA: D-R-U-D-A. MR.
13 TURRELL: Okay. And your age, sir? MR. DRUDA:
14 Twenty five. MR. TURRELL: And would you
15 acknowledge this is being recorded. MR. DRUDA:
16 Yes, I understand it is being recorded. MR.
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19 engines up. So, I ran downstairs, got the engines
20 started, ran back up and took our line off the dock and
21 started getting a head line prepared to be put on the
22 ferry. There were people on the maintenance
23 pier screaming I was to get a line on the ferry and as
24 we were headed out there, I saw somebody in a white
25 shirt going across the top of the boat. I am not sure

1 where he came from, but he was headed towards the
2 damaged end of the boat. And we went over to what
3 would have been the port side, and got a line on the
4 port bough. And I had to, they couldn't gmaged side.

5 MR. DRUDA: The undamaged side of the ferry.

6 MR. TURRELL: Okay. He was walking forward
7 from some point aft, along the undamaged side to the
8 Staten Island pilot house.

9 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Can you describe the, his
11 motion, his pace?

12 MR. DRUDA: Very swift.

13 MR. TURRELL: Besides the whistle that you
14 heard from Mr. Seckers blowing on the Dorothy J, did
15 you hear any other sounds?

16 MR. DRUDA: No. There were no other sounds.

17 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Chuck?

18 MR. COBB: Nothing. No questions.

19 MR. TURRELL: Christine?

20 MS. DEOS: No questions.

21 MR. TURRELL: Do you have any clarifications?

22 MR. MCCANTY: No.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The only thing I have
24 is you, guys, you had a radio with you or how were you
25 communicating with Mr. Seckers?

1 MR. DRUDA: There is an intercom system on the
2 boat with a PA on the, on the stem and the bough, or
3 the stem and stern, that he can tell us what needs to
4 be done.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

6 MR. TURRELL: So, Robert was using that PA
7 system in this whole 10 minute period, roughly, talking
8 to you?

9 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

10 MR. TURRELL: At any time did you heard anyone
11 from the ferry talk to you or any crew member having
12 contact with you?

13 MR. DRUDA: As I jumped on the boat, the first
14 time, I am not sure who the crew member or just
15 somebody on the boat, but I was told to look out for
16 bodies.

17 MR. TURRELL: From the time Mr. Seckers told
18 you to start the engines and you came up on deck, can
19 you tell us how long that would take?

20 MR. DRUDA: About 30 seconds, when I saw what
21 was happening, I did everything as fast as possible.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So, you, you were in the
23 galley, you went out the starboard side, you saw the
24 ferry, you went back down in the engine room and
25 started the engines?

1 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

2 MR. TURRELL: And what, what process is that
3 to start --

4 MR. DRUDA: There is just one button that
5 activates the starter.

6 MR. TURRELL: And then you came back out on
7 deck on the starboard side?

8 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The person that you saw
10 going down on the deck, was that before or after you
11 started the engines?

12 MR. DRUDA: After. It was after we actually
13 had untied from the dock and turned around and were
14 facing the ferry, that I saw this man walking across.

15 MR. TURRELL: Can you give us an approximate
16 elapsed time that you left the gallery to go on deck,
17 started the engine, coming back out and seeing this
18 person?

19 MR. DRUDA: Maybe a minute at max.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

21 MR. DRUDA: You know, it probably actually
22 would have been a minute and a half. Somewhere in that
23 range.

24 MR. TURRELL: From your vantage point looking
25 up at the ferry and you saw this person wearing a white

1 shirt and black pants, were they walking past the life
2 rafts, is that, that deck, on the hurricane deck, up on
3 top?

4 MR. DRUDA: I don't believe there are life
5 rafts up there.

6 MR. TURRELL: So you had a pretty clear shot
7 of this person walking along.

8 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

10 MR. DRUDA: Yeah.

11 MR. TURRELL: And where was that person, the
12 first time you saw this person in the white shirt and
13 the black pants, if you were moving aft, how far back
14 on the deck was the person?

15 MR. DRUDA: A little further back than mid
16 ship.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Back towards the
18 undamaged or --

19 MR. DRUDA: Towards the undamaged, yes.

20 MR. TURRELL: Once you started working the
21 vessel and turning and getting lines up, did you have
22 occasion to look at the pilot house and see anyone in
23 the pilot house, any the time you were getting on and
24 off the tug and the ferry?

25 MR. DRUDA: No, I hadn't no real view of the

1 pilot house at that time.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. When you were back on the,
3 you went on the ferry, what, two or three times?

4 MR. DRUDA: Two.

5 MR. TURRELL: Two times.

6 MR. DRUDA: Right, I am sorry, three times.

7 MR. TURRELL: Three times, yes.

8 MR. DRUDA: Three times.

9 MR. TURRELL: And during any of those three
10 times did you have occasion to see any deck officer or
11 crew member identify themselves to you as a crew
12 member?

13 MR. DRUDA: No.

14 MR. TURRELL: Did you see any damage in the
15 water or any floating debris or any, any of that,
16 anywhere in the process, did you see any debris in the
17 water?

18 MR. DRUDA: Yes, there were pieces of dock, a
19 couple of life jackets. We didn't see anyone in the
20 water. There wasn't a whole lot in the water.

21 MR. TURRELL: Did you get a chance to actually
22 see, on the damaged end, the damage that was done to
23 the vessel?

24 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

25 MR. TURRELL: Yes, you got to look into it.

1 MR. DRUDA: Yes.

2 MR. TURRELL: Can you tell us the actions or
3 passengers when you looked in, what people were doing,
4 can you tell us what you saw?

5 MR. DRUDA: There was a lot of people trying
6 to help other people. There was one guy, that asked
7 for first aid kit and I went inside to get all the
8 things out of our first aid and give it to him. But,
9 before I had a chance to get back out on deck, we had
10 already pulled away from the ferry.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a clarification
13 on that. You said one guy asked for a first aid kit,
14 was that a passenger on the ferry?

15 MR. DRUDA: I am not sure if it was a
16 passenger or somebody who worked for the ferry.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What did he look like,
18 can you describe him?

19 MR. DRUDA: He had a blue cap and a blue
20 jacket on. That is the only, I am not exactly sure,
21 because I know their deck hands do wear blue jackets
22 and stuff.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Mike, I am going to ask
24 you a few questions. Prior to coming on work, we, NTSB
25 does a 72 hour profiles on people, mariners and general

1 concern about fatigue. We are doing long term studies
2 on. Can you tell us what you were doing just the hours
3 and days leading up to this?

4 MR. DRUDA: I was home on leave.

5 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And on leave, what type of
6 sleep schedule do you normally --

7 MR. DRUDA: Usually a 10, 10 to 9.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So you were well rested.

9 MR. DRUDA: Yeah.

10 MR. TURRELL: And what type of work schedule
11 do you normally keep?

12 MR. DRUDA: We do six on, six off.

13 MR. TURRELL: Six days on --

14 MR. DRUDA: During the day, it is seven days
15 on, and seven days off.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And the hours are?

17 MR. DRUDA: Six hours on, six hours off.

18 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And who do you relieve, or
19 who is your relief?

20 MR. DRUDA: I technically don't have a relief,
21 but, every six hours, one of the deck hands get up and
22 I go in the rack.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Okay. I have no further
24 questions. Any clarifications, points?

25 MR. MCCANTY: No.

1 MR. TURRELL: That concludes the interview.
2 Please acknowledge that it was being recorded.

3 MR. DRUDA: I acknowledge that it was being
4 recorded.

5 MR. TURRELL: Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)