

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

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Interview of: **Passenger 1**

Einstein Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Friday,  
May 15, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

CHARLES WHALEN, Passenger Railroad Safety Specialist  
Federal Railroad Administration

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: The date is May 15th. This is Ronald  
3 Kaminski with NTSB here at Einstein Hospital with passenger [REDACTED]  
4 **Passenger 1** [REDACTED]. Birth date [REDACTED]. Contact number  
5 [REDACTED]. So, **Passenger 1** 's going to give us a description of  
6 what she recalls regarding the crash from the time she got on the  
7 train until the crash occurred.

8 **Passenger 1** : So, the train -- can I start?

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 1**

9  
10 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

11 Q. Sure. Go ahead.

12 A. Okay. The train was running on time. Like, I boarded  
13 the train on time and I walked to the first car because it was the  
14 first door I saw open, so I just walked in and I sat in the back  
15 of the first car. I was probably like four seats in to the back  
16 and I was sitting on the right side next to the window, and then  
17 the seat next to me was just like where my pocketbook was and my  
18 suitcase.

19 Q. So you were in a aisle seat?

20 A. No, I was in the window seat.

21 Q. Oh, window seat. Okay.

22 A. My bags were in the aisle seat.

23 BY MR. WHALEN:

24 Q. And you were in the business car, the first car --

25 A. Yeah, but it wasn't really business car because no one

1 had a business -- they allowed it for coach. Like, it wasn't --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yeah. Well, I paid a coach seat. I was allowed to sit  
4 there. But he just checked -- the guy just checked my ticket and  
5 then said 15 -- we're 15 minutes away from Trenton, 15, 10 minutes  
6 away from Trenton. And --

7 Q. Where did you get on?

8 A. 30th Street.

9 Q. 30th Street. Okay.

10 A. Philadelphia. And I was going to Penn Station. And I  
11 was supposed to get in at 10:34.

12 And then all the sudden, like the train, I felt it go  
13 really far to the right. And then all the sudden, it just went  
14 super-fast and I heard a really big bang noise and it was the  
15 front of the car. And then I blacked out because then it  
16 obviously hit my side. And then I just woke up like in the woods,  
17 not in the train, not -- nowhere close to the train. I was in the  
18 woods, pitch black. I had like three other people on top of me  
19 and one person next to me.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: So you woke up out of the -- out of the  
21 train?

22 **Passenger 1**: Yeah. My shoes were off --

23 BY MR. WHALEN:

24 Q. No one helped you out; you got thrown out of the train?

25 A. I'm -- I mean, I blacked out, but I wasn't by -- like, I

1 wasn't by any other people besides three other people that had  
2 landed on top of me. And then, I wasn't anywhere close to the  
3 train. I was in the woods. I didn't even see train tracks or  
4 anything, but it was also pitch black outside. I couldn't see a  
5 thing. And I also was like gushing blood. So then I started  
6 screaming for help. Do you want to know what happened afterwards?

7 Q. Sure. Keep going.

8 A. Okay. So I started screaming for help and then I saw  
9 like a few lights flash and then I saw this guy starting to walk  
10 by on his phone, so I started screaming for more help. And he was  
11 on my train though because he came closer and his face was gushing  
12 blood. But I realized I didn't have my phone or any bags on me,  
13 so I asked to borrow his phone. That's when I called my parents,  
14 told them what happened. But the guy's phone who I borrowed, he  
15 knew like the train number. Like, I didn't know what train number  
16 it was and I didn't know where we were. He like knew what area we  
17 were in. And then he called the cops and the ambulance to give  
18 them like a warning.

19 And then I would say it took about like 25, 30 minutes  
20 for like me to get help, like cops to show up and help me. And  
21 then they lifted me up and took me to like the streets, like in  
22 the light where everyone else was, like where houses were and  
23 stuff. And then that's when they started dividing people up with  
24 green, yellow, and red tags for people who were really injured,  
25 minor injured, and not injured severely.

1 Q. They were doing that there?

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. Oh, okay. How did you get here? How did they transport  
4 you here?

5 A. I was on a stretcher. I was put on a stretcher in the  
6 ambulance.

7 Q. On an ambulance?

8 MR. KAMINSKI: In an ambulance? Okay.

9 MR. WHALEN: Okay.

10 **Passenger 1**: Yeah, by myself, and like with a guy.

11 BY MR. WHALEN:

12 Q. Let me ask you this. When you first got on the train at  
13 30th Street --

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. -- and the train started moving, did the conductor make  
16 any announcements about where emergency exits were located or --

17 A. Honestly, my headphones were in because I take the train  
18 all the time, so I didn't hear. Like, I don't know if they did or  
19 didn't. Like, when the train was tipping over, like my headphones  
20 were still in. I was listening to music. Like, my phone was  
21 plugged in charging. And then when I realized it was going really  
22 fast, that's when I took out my headphones and then --

23 Q. So when you got on the train, did you have your  
24 headphones in?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. So you wouldn't (indiscernible) what he said.

2 A. I did, sorry.

3 Q. Okay, if he said, if he said anything, right.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. But you don't know how you got outside the train?

6 A. I'm assuming I fell out the other window because I was  
7 sitting right next to the window and I had glass all over me.

8 Q. Okay. So you went out through the --

9 A. So -- is what I'm assuming. I don't know how else I  
10 would have gotten out. And there wasn't that many people in,  
11 like, my car, so --

12 Q. You're a very lucky girl.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

14 **Passenger 1**: I know, thank you.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Pretty much all the deceased were  
16 ejected.

17 **Passenger 1**: Um-hum.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: All of them were.

19 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: All the seats?

20 MR. KAMINSKI: So you're very lucky.

21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: All the seats were ejected?

22 MR. KAMINSKI: No, no. All the deceased.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: All the deceased were ejected.

24 MR. WHALEN: Were in the car she was in.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.



1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: In the car she was in? I didn't  
2 know that.

3 MR. WHALEN: Yeah.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The first car?

6 MR. KAMINSKI: So you had someone looking over your  
7 shoulder, no doubt.

8 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Which car was the one that looks  
9 mangled, the first car?

10 MR. KAMINSKI: The first car.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Was her car?

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

13 MR. WHALEN: She's a very lucky lady.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: So, okay, so you got into the first car  
15 four seats from the back on the right side?

16 MR. WHALEN: (Indiscernible). You're okay.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

18 MR. WHALEN: That's the important thing.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: So, I think we've got everything. You  
20 had your -- we're just looking to hear information on the safety  
21 announcement and so --

22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Do they normally do that? I've  
23 never -- I take Amtrak all the time, I never remember hearing that  
24 announcement.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: They're supposed to.

1 MR. WHALEN: It's an Amtrak requirement for the crew to  
2 make an announcement at every station stop after people get on.

3 **Passenger 1**: Well, they do that, but -- well, they said  
4 next train coming up was Trenton --

5 MR. WHALEN: No, but they're supposed to tell you  
6 that --

7 **Passenger 1**: -- next stop coming up was Trenton.

8 MR. WHALEN: -- the emergency exits are located wherever  
9 and there's a placard in the seat pocket just like on an airplane,  
10 that they want you to take out and look to see where you can get  
11 out if there's an emergency. In your case, it wouldn't have made  
12 any difference anyway.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It wouldn't have mattered. No.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Right, right, right. Okay.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So --

16 MR. KAMINSKI: That concludes the interview here at  
17 approximately 2:45.

18 (Whereupon, at 2:45 p.m., the interview was concluded.)  
19  
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21  
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 1**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                     Philadelphia, PA

DATE:                      May 15, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

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Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

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Interview of: **Passenger 2**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

CHARLES WHALEN, Passenger Railroad Safety Specialist  
Federal Railroad Administration

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. My name is Ron Kaminski, NTSB  
3 investigator. Today's date is May 14th. I'm here at Temple  
4 Hospital with passenger **Passenger 2**.

5 HUSBAND: Y. Y.

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Y, excuse me. And her husband and  
7 daughter. And she is going to give us a description of the crash  
8 which occurred on the 12th. Go ahead.

9 DAUGHTER: Can we move it a little closer just because  
10 she is not (indiscernible).

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

12 DAUGHTER: Okay.

13 HUSBAND: Do you want to hold it? Okay.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Well, this should be good.

15 DAUGHTER: Okay.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: It picks up pretty good.

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 2**

17  
18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. So why don't you just start? What's your date of birth?

20 A. .

21 Q. Okay. And why don't you just give us a description of  
22 what you recall from the start of the trip until the end of the  
23 trip when the crash occurred?

24 A. It said that it was delayed, the train. We got on the  
25 line. I was with my colleague, . It was -- this

1 was the day that she was on the train for the first time in her  
2 life in the U.S.

3 Q. Oh, my gosh.

4 A. And so we had gone down in the Acela earlier in the  
5 morning and then going back. We had a very good meeting. We  
6 talked -- we had trouble finding seats together. And I thought  
7 about sitting in different seats, you know, like on the edge, and  
8 then I didn't. So I kept looking for seats together. So we ended  
9 up in the quiet car.

10 Q. Okay. And do you know what car number that was, or --

11 A. It was 2.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I believe it was 2. And we were near the front. And we  
14 were very self-satisfied that we got a seat together. And I  
15 didn't know it was the quiet car, so I was invariably loud and  
16 laughing.

17 Q. Oh.

18 A. And somebody said shhhh, it's a quiet car. So then I  
19 had to keep reminding myself to be quiet so she could  
20 (indiscernible). Then we worked. And she was working on  
21 extremism. I was working on my emails. And I got some things  
22 done for the gala, which is next week.

23 DAUGHTER: Mom, I don't think they care about that.

24 HUSBAND: And then, then what happened?

25 DAUGHTER: Yeah.



1 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

2 Q. That's okay. Go ahead.

3 A. I'm sorry. I --

4 Q. That's okay. Continue. That's fine.

5 A. I think it was a bumpier trip than the one going down in  
6 the Acela. I don't know if [REDACTED] said that to me or I said it to  
7 her, but there was an observation like that. And then it was  
8 turning and, now, I would have thought it was turning to the left.

9 Q. Yeah, it was. It was a left curve.

10 A. Because it was going fast and suddenly I was thrown and  
11 I saw the train -- and I was kind of on to her because she was in  
12 the aisle. And the train -- and I thought to myself, it's going  
13 to right itself. I thought --

14 BY MR. WHALEN:

15 Q. She was in the aisle to your right or to your left?

16 A. To my right.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. It's on two wheels, and then it kept falling. And I  
19 thought, no. And it went black and it was -- I guess it was loud.  
20 And my body was thrown all different ways and I kept thinking, be  
21 loose. Don't fight it.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum.

23 **Passenger 2**: And when it settled, there was something  
24 on my chest, so I pushed it away.

25 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

1 Q. Do you know what that was? Was it a seat? You don't  
2 know?

3 A. It wasn't too heavy. I mean, it was heavy, but not so  
4 heavy I couldn't move it. I don't know if I could have moved a  
5 seat. And I was screaming for [REDACTED] as soon as it went dark  
6 because I was worried about her. I just kept screaming her name.  
7 And then I heard her screaming mine, and then I found her hand and  
8 I held it. And it was a chair or something, a seat between us.  
9 We weren't that close. We had to reach. And she said her  
10 shoulder hurt. It was really bad. And I didn't know how I was  
11 then. And then I looked at the guy next to me -- he had a light  
12 -- and he had blood all over his face. He was talking to his  
13 family, describing his injuries.

14 Q. He was on the phone or --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Oh, okay.

17 A. And I felt my head and it was indented and I just tried  
18 to push it together, to hold it. And then I was aware that my  
19 chest hurt and my back hurt, but I couldn't move. And there was a  
20 person named [REDACTED] who hasn't been listed among the dead yet, so I  
21 hope he lived, and he was screaming, screaming because he couldn't  
22 see or get out. He wanted us to get an (indiscernible).

23 Q. Um-hum.

24 A. And we couldn't. People were very calm, very helpful.  
25 Next to [REDACTED] was a man who also had blood all over his face, and

1 he was trying to talk. What did I say his name was? [REDACTED]?

2 Q. [REDACTED].

3 A. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] threw -- we were talking to him. We were  
4 saying, we'll get you help. We were telling him we heard the  
5 sirens. Oh, but the man next to him was just calm and amazing.  
6 He was a professor. He said, I'm a professor, but that's not  
7 going to help me because I think I'm going to pass out, but I  
8 promise you I will make sure they come for you. And then we all  
9 promised him that.

10 Q. Well, the good news is everybody that deceased in the  
11 crash was thrown out. So anybody that stayed inside survived,  
12 so --

13 HUSBAND: Oh.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: -- that's --

15 HUSBAND: I didn't know that. That's good to hear.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: Yes.

17 **Passenger 2**: (Indiscernible). And then we heard  
18 ambulances. Someone was screaming, can you call 911? And  
19 somebody called 911. And then we heard ambulances and we were  
20 telling, you know, help was coming. And then they came in from  
21 the right and --

22 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

23 Q. How did they get in? Did anybody open a window, break a  
24 window?

25 A. There was a window partly open below my feet.

1 Q. It had broken open, you think?

2 A. It was just open. It wasn't broken.

3 Q. Oh, okay.

4 A. And I didn't want to try to get out of it. I didn't  
5 know -- I didn't know what I could do and not do. I didn't want  
6 to leave [REDACTED]. And then they came and --

7 Q. Did they come through that open window?

8 A. No. They came through where the door would have been.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And they were breaking things down and they were sawing.  
11 And tremendous soot and stuff flying. And I closed my eyes to  
12 keep it out of my eyes.

13 Q. When is that? When they open the door, the window, or  
14 whatever it was to get in?

15 A. No, they were sawing something --

16 Q. Oh, okay.

17 A. -- to get in.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And then there was yelling, like one at a time. And a  
20 guy behind me started walking, which was fine, because I couldn't  
21 just walk so easily. And they yelled at him. And they said, we  
22 said one at a time, sir. And but he did get out. He was the one  
23 who had been talking to his family, who was all bloody. And then  
24 they got the professor out. Someone in front of the professor, I  
25 think; maybe not. Then the professor, and then [REDACTED], and she

1 didn't want to go for a minute. And I was like, you go. You just  
2 go. I'll come out. You just go. And so she went, and then I got  
3 out and I was barefoot. And somebody had to help me walk because  
4 of my chest and my back. But it seemed like I wasn't as hurt as  
5 bad as other people. So I didn't -- and they just sat me down  
6 next -- I got -- I saw her, so I was able to sit with her in  
7 triage. And then she helped me, because at a certain point I  
8 started to have much more trouble breathing. And she started to  
9 get demanding that I needed help. And -- okay.

10 Q. So what types of injuries did you sustain? You have a  
11 chest injury or you have some broken ribs?

12 A. This thing here is broken.

13 Q. Your collarbone here?

14 A. It's not clavicle.

15 Q. Or your sternum?

16 HUSBAND: Sternum.

17 DAUGHTER: Sternum.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Sternum, okay.

19 HUSBAND: Sternum, yeah.

20 DAUGHTER: Is fractured.

21 **Passenger 2**: And then --

22 DAUGHTER: She has six -- five broken ribs.

23 HUSBAND: On both sides, combination.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, wow. Yeah, I was surprised you were  
25 able to breathe, that's a flail chest when you have that many.

1           **Passenger 2** : And my lung had collapsed.

2           DAUGHTER: And the head injury, she has staples in the  
3 back of her head.

4           **Passenger 2** : Yeah.

5           HUSBAND: And they scratched her -- a piece of her  
6 spine.

7           DAUGHTER: Oh, spine.

8           HUSBAND: T1.

9           DAUGHTER: Yeah.

10          HUSBAND: The side of T1. It's not fractured all the  
11 way across.

12          MR. KAMINSKI: It's a facet?

13          HUSBAND: Yes.

14          BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15          Q.    So, okay, five rib fractures, bilateral both sides; T1  
16 fracture on facet; sternum fracture. Staples, how many staples to  
17 the back of your head?

18          A.    Ten.

19          Q.    Ten staples?

20          A.    I think 10, maybe 12. But I think 10.

21          Q.    Okay. Any lower leg injuries, feet, nothing?

22          A.    (No audible response.)

23          Q.    Now, you said you were seated on the left side --

24          A.    Right.

25          Q.    -- and by the window and your friend's name is  --

1 A. [REDACTED]. She's a colleague.

2 Q. How do you spell her last name?

3 A. [REDACTED]. She went home with her mother  
4 yesterday --

5 DAUGHTER: [REDACTED].

6 MR. KAMINSKI: [REDACTED], okay.

7 **Passenger 2**: -- to [REDACTED].

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, so she's already been --

9 **Passenger 2**: Released.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, great.

11 DAUGHTER: She just had like a shoulder break.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

13 **Passenger 2**: So she came in last night to say goodbye  
14 and I told her go home and stay home.

15 DAUGHTER: Yeah.

16 **Passenger 2**: We'll deal with work when we can deal  
17 with work.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Right. Okay.

19 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

20 Q. And so you said you're -- it's what car? You said  
21 you're towards the -- in the quiet car, on the left side. [REDACTED]  
22 was on the left side. You were by the window. [REDACTED] was in the  
23 aisle. Do you remember how you ended up? Who you --

24 A. Facing the left windows. So turned around, up on  
25 (indiscernible), facing down. The window was down.

1 Q. Okay. So you were thrown on the other side. Yeah,  
2 because the --

3 A. Well, I went all around.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. I mean, I could feel that I was --

6 Q. Being tossed around?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And you remember getting out because the car is  
9 on the -- the train car's on its side, right?

10 A. And they were --

11 Q. And they were coming up from the windows or something?

12 A. I thought they -- it was on its side.

13 Q. Or door. They were using the saw to cut through, right?

14 A. And they were over there.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. And they held my hand and pulled me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And it hurt.

19 Q. Sure. Okay.

20 A. But they were good cheerleaders. You know, it was  
21 really chaotic for them.

22 Q. Sure.

23 BY MR. WHALEN:

24 Q. I'm curious. You said the train rolled over on its  
25 side. The windows that are on your right were now facing the



1 earth, is that it?

2 A. The windows that were on my left were now facing the  
3 earth.

4 Q. On your left, yeah, because you were twisted around.

5 A. How I was sitting --

6 DAUGHTER: Like it must have --

7 **Passenger 2**: -- like, if it was like -- my fist was  
8 the train and I had been here, now I'm here with my feet going  
9 down this way, facing that way, and the window's down there.

10 MR. WHALEN: Okay.

11 **Passenger 2**: Does that help?

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

13 MR. WHALEN: Okay. Yeah, sure.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Well, I'll let you go. I  
15 appreciate your time. I wish you a speedy recovery. I know it's  
16 going to be -- but every day you get a little bit better. You got  
17 to remember that. Every day will be a little bit better, but  
18 it'll be --

19 **Passenger 2**: I'll work on remembering that.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

21 **Passenger 2**: Thanks a lot.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Thank you. That concludes our statement  
23 here with **Passenger 2** at 3:00.

24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 2**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, PA

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

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Interview of: **Passenger 3**

Aria Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Friday,  
May 15, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

CHARLES WHALEN, Passenger Railroad Safety Specialist  
Federal Railroad Administration

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of <b>Passenger 3</b> :		
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1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Date is May 15th. I'm at -- Ronald  
3 Kaminski, NTSB. I'm here at Aria Hospital with **Passenger 3**,  
4 spelled **\_\_\_\_\_**. Date of birth is **\_\_\_\_\_**.

5 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 3**

6 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7 Q. And she's going to give us a description of the crash  
8 she was involved in, leading up to ending up here at Aria  
9 Hospital.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Just leave it there.

12 A. Oh. Okay.

13 Q. It'll pick it up.

14 A. Okay. I waited in Union Station for the 7:10, train  
15 number 188, to depart and they made an announcement that the train  
16 was late because there was no electrical systems in the train.  
17 And it was probably about 20, 25 minutes late. And when we got  
18 into the car, they made another announcement in the car that  
19 because the electric had been off, that the air conditioning would  
20 come back on at that point soon.

21 So I was sitting in the second car, which is the quiet  
22 car, and the car was about half full. Because I had two seats to  
23 myself and most people had two seats to themselves, so I would say  
24 it was about half full.

25 Q. On the left side, right side?

1 A. I was on the right side, right in the middle of the car.

2 Q. Which way were you facing? Were you --

3 A. I was --

4 Q. -- facing forward or facing to the rear?

5 A. All the seats in the car face forward except for the  
6 last two in the car that was sort of a conversational seat that  
7 could -- I think there were two facing each other, but everything  
8 else was facing forward.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I had a large piece of luggage way in the front of the  
11 car wedged into a nook, so I don't think that went anywhere. It's  
12 probably still there. And I had a carry-on piece next to me on my  
13 seat. It was about midway into the trip and I fell asleep. I  
14 laid across both seats with my knees up, facing the window. So my  
15 head was facing the aisle. And I don't know how -- I remember  
16 falling asleep about 10 to 9.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And I woke up. The only time I have is on my iPhone. I  
19 woke up to see what time it was, to see how long I had been  
20 sleeping, and it was 9:31 or 9:32 on my train -- on my iPhone.  
21 So, I don't know whether I woke up because of the noise. So, I  
22 was really, really asleep. And what I don't remember was whether  
23 I was sitting up or I actually laid back down again to continue  
24 sleeping.

25 And instantly after that, I heard this horrific

1 screeching and it definitely was the sound of the brakes of the  
2 train trying to stop. And then it was very fast and very  
3 instantaneous that the train fell off the tracks. And I must have  
4 been asleep. I did not have a head injury, so I didn't hit my  
5 head. And I must have been asleep because instantly there were  
6 people walking around what seemed to be the outside of the train,  
7 and they were saying, do you have a phone? Do you have a phone?  
8 I want to call 911. And --

9 Q. So did your car, did that quiet car, did it stay  
10 upright, did it roll to the side, or at an angle?

11 A. (Beeping) It had to have rolled upside down because I  
12 was on -- oh. That was me. I'm sorry. I bent my arm and this --  
13 they're going to have to come and turn this off.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Sorry.

16 Q. I'll just put this on the (indiscernible).

17 A. Okay. So, I had my eyes closed. The -- it was pitch  
18 black because all the electric went out. I just wasn't aware of  
19 exactly what happened, but I found myself laying next to -- I was  
20 aware of the people that were sitting around me because I saw  
21 them. I always check the people sitting around me when I get on  
22 the train to see if they're going to be making loud noises and I  
23 want it to be quiet. So I can identify the person behind me and  
24 the person next to me. And when the car rolled over, I found  
25 myself laying exactly next to the person who was on the left aisle



1 of me. So I'm assuming I got thrown from the right to the left.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I mean, he could have been thrown from the left to the  
4 right, but I'm assuming we were all thrown in that direction.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. But there seemed to me people walking to the -- oh, I  
7 know what it was. I must have -- that must have been right  
8 because there must have been people walking in the aisle and to  
9 me, it was the right of me. I assume that I was still in my --  
10 going forward.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So they were in the aisle --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- and I was thrown to the left.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And there were definitely people who were not hurt and  
17 they said they were calling. And it seemed like instantaneously I  
18 heard a helicopter. I was laying next to a guy who was on his  
19 back and he was screaming because his hip was injured. And I  
20 couldn't move because I had something pinning me down. There was  
21 something on my back, like the chair or -- I think it was chairs.

22 Q. Was on top of you?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. So -- oh, do you want to interrupt to --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So, there were people walking around and I heard a  
3 helicopter instantly. And it really seemed to be very, very  
4 quickly that they were saying let's get out of here. And they  
5 said they couldn't because they were too high, which also, to me,  
6 indicates that the car had rolled.

7 Q. Um-hum.

8 A. So, it seemed very, very quickly that there were  
9 firefighters that came and they said anybody who can walk out,  
10 there's a ladder. So those people walked out and I guess climbed  
11 down a ladder. I couldn't move and the guy next to me, who's  
12 name -- he kept saying his name was [REDACTED] -- he couldn't move. And  
13 we just had to wait. And it seemed pretty quick that the  
14 firefighters came. And there were a lot of people around me and  
15 they told me that they had to evacuate those people because they  
16 were on top of me. And eventually, they got everybody else out  
17 and they had to get tools up to me and they had to cut me out.  
18 And --

19 Q. Because you were stuck with the seats on you or seats --

20 A. I was --

21 Q. -- you were stuck between seats or --

22 A. Yeah. I had the seat pressing against my back and my  
23 legs. I mean, I'm pretty sure I felt that it was the seat. So  
24 when the rescue guys came yesterday to bring me my phone that they  
25 had found, they told me that the luggage and everything had fallen

1 down on me --

2 Q. Oh, the luggage rack, okay.

3 A. -- had fallen on me and that they actually had to lift  
4 off people that were on top of me. So, I don't know what -- I  
5 didn't hear them speaking. I don't know what condition they were  
6 in. But basically because of the electric tools and the danger of  
7 the tools, they told me they had to do me last --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- in order to do the cutting. So, they had a hard time  
10 cutting me out. And eventually, they got me out and they put me  
11 in a --

12 Q. Headboard? Backboard?

13 A. No, they didn't have one. No, it was a flexible sling.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And they lifted me out, and I felt like there were a  
16 million hands on me. So, also when I met them in person, I asked  
17 them if they were the two people who carried me out, and they told  
18 me that there was a -- what do you call it -- a progressive line  
19 that they were passing me all the way down, but there was a  
20 problem because there was a lot of live electric that they had to  
21 pass me over on the tracks.

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. So, it seemed like that they carried me -- it seemed  
24 like they carried -- I even said to them at one -- I couldn't see  
25 anything because it was -- I was in a sling, so I couldn't see

1 over it.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And it was dark. So I said to them, are you carrying me  
4 all the way to the hospital? It seemed like it was quite a long  
5 time. They must have carried me to a parking lot or something.  
6 And they put me in a police truck because they had run out of  
7 ambulances. And I know that they told me that I was one of the  
8 last in that car that they cut out. So they put me in a police  
9 truck and I had a back injury and there was nothing underneath me.  
10 I had to ride to the, to the -- to here.

11 Q. Oh.

12 A. And --

13 Q. So kind of painful?

14 A. Yeah. And there was a policewoman. There was nothing  
15 in the back of the truck except it was a metal bottom and she was  
16 sitting on a bench. And she was riding the whole way holding my  
17 head. She didn't know if I had a head injury or not. So she was  
18 very good. And when we pulled in here, then they immediately  
19 started working on me.

20 Q. Okay. Now, when you started off on the trip, or -- and  
21 when you made stops to make passengers, was there any kind of  
22 announcement regarding the emergency exits or the lighting or  
23 anything like that, do you recall? Or the fact that there is a  
24 brochure like they have in airplanes that's on the seat back that  
25 you can get?

1 A. No. I've ridden that train many, many, many times and I  
2 always sit in the quiet car and -- no.

3 Q. And you didn't hear any kind of announcement at any  
4 point or at the stops --

5 A. About the exits? No.

6 Q. About the exits or the --

7 A. No. Not -- no. They said the second car is the quiet  
8 car, please don't ride in that car if you intend on having any  
9 conversations. And there's a sign in there. And they said the  
10 bathroom is at the end of the car. And that was the only --  
11 that's the only thing that they mentioned about that. No, not  
12 about the exits.

13 Q. Nothing about the emergency lighting and --

14 A. No.

15 Q. Nothing?

16 A. I've never heard that in that -- no.

17 Q. And you travel that quite often?

18 A. Yeah, I have.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Yeah, I -- my mom and my sister live in [REDACTED]. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. And then how about the -- you said it went pitch  
22 black, so there was no lighting or anything like that?

23 A. There was definitely no backup lighting. No.

24 BY MR. WHALEN:

25 Q. No emergency lighting at all?

1 A. Inside? Not at all.

2 Q. What about those strips that were on -- that are on the  
3 floor like a (indiscernible)?

4 A. I was on the -- well, I couldn't move.

5 Q. Or you didn't know it --

6 A. I couldn't move. I was pinned. I couldn't -- so I  
7 don't know.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

9 **Passenger 3**: Like, I can't speak to that.

10 BY MR. WHALEN:

11 Q. Did you hear any public address announcements --

12 A. Definitely not.

13 Q. -- after the accident?

14 A. Definitely not. No. But the thing that I -- obviously,  
15 I watch the news. I'm surprised that I didn't -- I wasn't aware  
16 that the train was feeling like it was going fast. It was, but --  
17 I don't know if I was sleeping and that's what woke me up. I  
18 don't know. But I know I looked at my clock at 9:21 or 9:22. I  
19 don't remember now, but I know that's exactly what I looked at.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Anything else that -- I know that  
21 those were the questions you wanted --

22 MR. WHALEN: No, they were the definitive questions you  
23 wanted to ask them.

24 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

25 Q. Oh, but -- okay, so you were in the second car, quiet

1 car --

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. -- right side.

4 A. Right. Right in the middle.

5 Q. Towards the middle of the car.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. Were you -- and you were next to the window.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And was there anyone next to you in the aisle

10 seat?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. That's why I was laying down, because it was free.

14 Q. Oh, right.

15 MR. WHALEN: She was sitting by herself.

16 **Passenger 3** : Yeah.

17 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

18 Q. Right. But there was somebody in front of you and

19 some --

20 A. There was somebody in front of me next to the window,

21 somebody behind me next to the window.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. The gentleman to the left was next to the window.

24 Q. **█**.

25 A. **█**. Right. And -- oh, there was a very thin woman. I

1 just -- I look -- I always look at everybody. There was a thin  
2 woman with dark hair behind [REDACTED], next to the window. So there  
3 were very few multiple occupied seats. Everybody seemed to be  
4 traveling solo.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Right.

8 MR. WHALEN: You're a true New Yorker like me. You  
9 observe everything around you before you (indiscernible)  
10 yourself --

11 **Passenger 3** [REDACTED]: Well, not so much that. I do it  
12 because of my own comfort level and -- you know, sometimes people  
13 listen to music and if I'm sitting next to somebody who's 17,  
14 they're going to be playing their music loud and I don't want to  
15 hear it.

16 MR. WHALEN: Loud (indiscernible).

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Right, right, right.

18 **Passenger 3** [REDACTED]: So, yeah.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, and that should do it. Oh, what's  
20 a good contact number for you?

21 **Passenger 3** [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]. But I should give you my  
22 cell phone. I might be in rehab, so --

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

24 **Passenger 3** [REDACTED]: That's my home number.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.



1           **Passenger 3** : My cell phone is [REDACTED].

2           MR. WHALEN: Has anybody from Amtrak spoken to you?

3           **Passenger 3** : There have been many people from Amtrak  
4 here.

5           MR. WHALEN: All right, so they'll find your luggage and  
6 stuff for you, right?

7           **Passenger 3** : Yeah, they asked me to describe it.  
8 Yeah. Yeah, and they -- and then somebody from claims also came.

9           MR. WHALEN: Good.

10          **Passenger 3** : And they have a family services set up  
11 for the people who have to stay over.

12          MR. KAMINSKI: Right. Right.

13          **Passenger 3** : Yeah. Yeah.

14          MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. I think that's it. I thank you  
15 for your help and cooperation. That concludes the interview here  
16 at approximately 12:30 p.m.

17                 (Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 3**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, PA

DATE:                        May 15, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 4**

May 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

MR. WHALEN, Passenger Railroad Safety Specialist  
Federal Railroad Administration

I N D E X

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, can I speak to **Passenger 4**,  
3 please?

4 **Passenger**: Speaking.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, **Passenger**. My name Ronald Kaminski.  
6 I'm a federal investigator with the National Transportation Safety  
7 Board.

8 **Passenger**: Yeah.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: And I'm calling regarding the train crash  
10 you were involved in.

11 **Passenger**: Yes.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Do you have a couple minutes to talk with  
13 me and I can get a statement from you as regarding what you  
14 experienced and what you saw during the crash?

15 **Passenger**: Yes, that's -- yeah, that's fine.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

17 **Passenger**: Well, who are you with again? Sorry.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: The National Transportation Safety Board,  
19 NTSB.

20 **Passenger**: Okay. Sure.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: We're working with the Philadelphia  
22 Police Department investigating the crash.

23 **Passenger**: Okay, cool.

24 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 4**

25 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

1 Q. Okay. And, **Passenger**, your last name is spelled **Passenger**

2 A. Yes, it is.

3 Q. Okay. And what's your date of birth?

4 A. [REDACTED].

5 Q. [REDACTED]?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay. And a good contact number for you is the number

8 I'm calling you at, [REDACTED]?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay, great. So, **Passenger 4**, if you could just start off  
11 and start with the -- where you got on, and from that point, just  
12 tell us anything about the trip leading up to the crash and  
13 leading up to getting out of the train car, all the way to the  
14 hospital, then I'll follow up with any other questions I have.

15 A. Sure. Okay, so where should I start again?

16 Q. Start from where you got on the train.

17 A. Okay. So, I got on the train at Philadelphia.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And I got on at carriage 3. I couldn't find any seats.  
20 I went to carriage 2, which is the quiet car, second from the  
21 front, and found a seat around the center of that carriage and I  
22 sat down. I happened to be on the phone, so I was told by another  
23 passenger across the aisle that this is the quiet car, I can't  
24 actually speak, I can't actually use my phone in the quiet car.  
25 So I left my bags on the seat, I walked towards the rear of the

1 train, and stood -- and went between car 2 and 3 in the connector  
2 area.

3 I couldn't hear the person over the phone, so -- but at  
4 that point I heard a lot of horns, a lot of loud horns, and I was  
5 wondering if it was normal. So I went back into carriage 2 and  
6 continued to chat on the phone at the back of carriage 2, facing  
7 the rear. And it was at that point, which is probably, like, very  
8 -- 10, 15 minutes into the ride, that I noticed the train tilt and  
9 I started flying backwards about halfway down the length of the  
10 carriage.

11 This turned out to be the best-case scenario actually  
12 because if I were to stay in the connector between 2 and 3, I  
13 would have been shattered. And if I were to stay on my feet, I  
14 would have been pinned down or crushed because I think the second  
15 car was pretty -- well, not completely decimated by -- like car 1,  
16 but just maybe bumped and mangled and it didn't really look like a  
17 cabin from the inside. I -- injury-wise, I managed to get away  
18 with a left eye laceration, multiple contusions all over my body,  
19 left rib, left hip, left calf, right shoulder, back.

20 Q. No broken bones?

21 A. Sorry?

22 Q. No broken bones?

23 A. No broken bones, just multiple body contusions, which is  
24 like internal, lots of bruises --

25 Q. Yes.



1           A.    -- left eye laceration on my left temple,  
2   (indiscernible) head injury, which is just sort of a concussion, I  
3   guess, and -- yeah, so that was what happened.

4           So, I was conscious the whole while. I flew halfway  
5   down the train. I felt the train tilt, and then the lights went  
6   out so that it was dark, and then I was flying through the train.  
7   When we finally stopped, I got up from the ceiling. I checked  
8   myself. I basically triaged myself. You know, okay, all my limbs  
9   are intact. Where am I injured? Okay, I'm bleeding on my head.  
10  No, it doesn't seem like I'm injured anywhere else, but actually  
11  it was because of the adrenalin and shock, I guess, so I didn't  
12  feel any pain --

13          Q.    Sure.

14          A.    -- but I was definitely -- I mean, I felt most of the  
15  pain, like, the next day and at the hospital.

16          Q.    Yes.

17          A.    Yeah. So, at that point it was still like adrenalin  
18  feel. I just know that I was bleeding (indiscernible) really from  
19  my head, basically from the left eye laceration.

20          Q.    Okay.

21          A.    And then I was looking for what items I had missing, and  
22  after that, I started looking around and seeing like -- I guess I  
23  recognized that I was one of the people who are injured the least  
24  in car 2, so I started trying to see who I could actually help.  
25  There was a lady -- right beside me was a lady who was pinned down

1 by a seat. She couldn't breathe. Like the chair was, like,  
2 compressing her chest, so I tried to rip out the cushions. And so  
3 that gave her, like room to breathe, but she was still pinned down  
4 by the chair. I tried to move the chair. It couldn't work. I  
5 found another guy who seemed more able-bodied, and so both of us  
6 tried to move the chair. We couldn't do anything about it, and so  
7 we moved on.

8           Again, a number of people who were actually, like, still  
9 okay. One lady beside me dialed 911, since she had a phone with  
10 her. And then after that, we searched for an escape route. I  
11 noticed that at the top, there was a window which was broken. I  
12 climbed up to the top, realized that it was still too high. We  
13 couldn't actually evacuate from this window, so we waited.  
14 Another person there found my phone, handed it back to me, and I  
15 started calling out for help.

16           And at that point, the first of the rescue efforts came.  
17 That was probably 20 minutes in. A firefighter entered the cabin  
18 and started telling everyone to evacuate. I and about two other  
19 guys told the firefighter that we were, like, healthy and so we  
20 were happy to help with the rescue efforts because it was just one  
21 firefighter. And so, she told --

22           So, what I mean healthy, I mean, like, I was bleeding  
23 out through my head, the second guy broke his left arm or right  
24 arm, I think, and the third guy looked totally fine, but I'm just  
25 pretty sure he was in shock. And so, they asked us to go and

1 round up basically passengers who were not pinned down who are  
2 easily rescued and women and children. I basically climbed  
3 through the front of the train on the inside and, tragically, only  
4 managed to round up about four people.

5 Q. Okay. When you went out the front, what do --

6 A. Most of the rest required power tools.

7 Q. What do you mean when you -- excuse me. What do you  
8 mean when you went out the front?

9 A. Oh, no. As in -- so, the broken window was in the  
10 center of the train. And there was one firefighter, so there  
11 were, like, three of us. So he sent the other two towards the  
12 rear to get, like, people who were less injured, and he sent me to  
13 the front of the train. So I climbed through the -- within the  
14 train, it was already a bit of a mangled mess. Like, the chairs  
15 were all over the place. I didn't really know what the inside --  
16 I mean, I couldn't really tell what the inside was looking, looked  
17 like. So, I was climbing along the side walls of the train, which  
18 was actually the ceiling right now, and climbed through looking  
19 for, like, free passengers, passengers who were not pinned down.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Yeah, and I think we only managed to round up about,  
22 like, four people; that's about it.

23 Q. Okay. Now, how did the --

24 A. Everyone else --

25 Q. How did the firemen enter the train car?

1 A. Through the broken window. So, he set up --

2 Q. Through the broken --

3 A. Yeah. He set up a ladder and climbed in through the  
4 window that we had identified, like, earlier.

5 Q. Right. Now, is that how you and a couple other -- the  
6 other people that you were with --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- got out?

9 A. Yeah. So, in the end, like, that's how everyone  
10 evacuated, as in everyone who could still walk. So, I -- that was  
11 about the point where I had evacuated the train as well, and then  
12 they escorted me to the casualty collection point there --

13 Q. Okay. And --

14 A. -- and then I waited. Yep.

15 Q. And then how did you -- what hospital did you go to and  
16 how did you -- how were you transported to that hospital?

17 A. Yeah. So, they -- when -- I got triaged at the casualty  
18 collection point, and then they put -- and when it was finally,  
19 like, my turn to move, they put six of us in an ambulance and sent  
20 us to Aria Franklin [sic] Hospital.

21 Q. Okay, so it was in an ambulance?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Six of you went?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And you went to Aria. Okay. And going back to

1 the start of your trip when you got on there in -- here in  
2 Philly --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- was there any type of safety announcement regarding  
5 the exits, safety equipment, the windows, anything like that?

6 A. No, not that I remember.

7 Q. Okay. And --

8 A. Yeah. I was also on the phone, but I don't remember,  
9 like, a safety announcement.

10 Q. Okay. And you said you were -- so, you were seated in  
11 the third car -- or, no, second car, correct?

12 A. No, the second car.

13 Q. Second car.

14 A. Yeah, the quiet car.

15 Q. Towards the back, and you were facing forward or  
16 rearward?

17 A. No, I wasn't actually seated. So, the thing is that my  
18 -- the seat that I was in was actually in the center of the quiet  
19 car facing the front, but I wasn't in my seat. I was actually  
20 standing in the aisle taking a phone call when it happened.

21 Q. Wow. So you were standing when the crash occurred?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. That was kind of why I flew across the train, because  
25 there wasn't any seat to block me. So I just flew, like, half the

1 length of the train. And, like I say, that actually turned out to  
2 be the most fortunate thing, because if I were to be in the seat,  
3 I would have been crushed. So flying across the train was  
4 surprisingly fortunate.

5 Q. Okay. Now, you said that there was -- it went  
6 completely black. Did you notice, was there any lights on the  
7 floor that would -- like, the airplane has? They talk about the  
8 lights on the floor. Was there any kind of --

9 A. Yeah. No, the power went out. So, like, all the  
10 lights, when it went completely -- so, as -- the lights are still  
11 on as it was tilting and I think once it tilted like 45 degrees or  
12 something like that, the power went out, everything went black,  
13 and then that was when I started flying. And when the train  
14 stopped, there was still no power, no light, nothing. And there  
15 was also no windows except for the small window right at the top  
16 because -- the train was warped, so basically what was left of the  
17 inside of the train had no windows anymore.

18 Q. Okay. And do you recall, was anybody walking around  
19 with those glow sticks, any safety equipment? Do you remember?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No?

22 A. No, nothing. People were using their -- people with  
23 their phones with them were using them as, like, torches.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. But I think I only remember, like, two people using them

1 like that. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay.

3 BY MR. WHALEN:

4 Q. Yeah, **Passenger**, this is Mr. Whalen from the Federal  
5 Railroad Administration.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I'd like to ask you a couple of questions and it has  
8 to --

9 A. Yeah, sure.

10 Q. -- it has to do with the woman that you said was pinned.  
11 Was she pinned by the seats or was she pinned by the seats and a  
12 luggage rack that might have dislodged itself from the wall?

13 A. She was pinned by the seat. She was on what was now the  
14 floor of the train, and then both seats were bent into her. It's  
15 hard to describe it over the phone.

16 Q. Well, did you notice if any of the luggage racks came  
17 dislodged from the car?

18 A. Sorry? Come again?

19 Q. The luggage racks, did they dislodge themselves from the  
20 walls of the car?

21 A. I did not notice that.

22 MR. KAMINSKI: You know, the luggage racks that are  
23 above the seats?

24 **Passenger**: Yeah, I didn't. Because --

25 MR. WHALEN: Okay, thank you.

1           **Passenger**: -- the inside of the cabin did not look like a  
2 cabin anymore. I could barely tell which was the floor or the  
3 ceiling or the luggage racks. The -- yeah.

4           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5           Q.    Okay. Oh, Mr. -- what's your date of birth? Oh, I --  
6 you gave me that. It's [REDACTED].

7           A.    [REDACTED], yeah.

8           Q.    Okay. I think that's pretty much all the questions we  
9 have. This is my phone number if you need to get back to me, [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED].

11          A.    Wait. Hold on. Would you -- let me write this down.  
12 Could I have your number again? Sorry.

13          Q.    [REDACTED] --

14          A.    [REDACTED].

15          Q.    -- [REDACTED] --

16          A.    [REDACTED].

17          Q.    -- [REDACTED].

18          A.    [REDACTED]. And --

19          Q.    My name again is Ronald Kaminski --

20          A.    Ronald?

21          Q.    -- Ronald, yes, Kaminski, K-A-M-I-N-S-K-I.

22          A.    S-K-I?

23          Q.    Yes. And I'm with the --

24          A.    Ronald Kaminski.

25          Q.    -- and I'm with the National Transportation Safety



1 Board.

2 A. National --

3 Q. Transportation --

4 A. -- Transportation --

5 Q. -- Safety Board.

6 A. -- Safety Board. [REDACTED]?

7 Q. Yes, sir.

8 A. Okay. So --

9 Q. So, feel free to give me a call back if you want to --  
10 if you recall or want to tell me about anything else you failed to  
11 tell me now. And also, there -- I doubt it, but there may be a  
12 chance I may want to follow up with you if I have some other  
13 questions for you.

14 A. Okay, sounds good. Thank you very much.

15 Q. Thank you very much, sir. Take care.

16 A. Okay. Take care. Bye-bye.

17 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

18

19

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23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 4**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE:                      May 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen M. Galvez  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: **Passenger 5**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINISKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of **Passenger 5** :

By Mr. Kaminski

4

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is May 14, 2015. I'm here  
3 at Temple Hospital with **Passenger 5** and her husband  
4 **\_\_\_\_\_**. **\_\_\_\_\_** is spelled **\_\_\_\_\_**, and **Passenger 5** is  
5 going to give us a description of what she recalls during the  
6 crash and what happened afterwards.

7 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 5**

8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. Go ahead.

10 A. So, I know for sure that we left D.C. late because I  
11 texted my husband. And my experience has been that they don't  
12 particularly make up time on the route, that if they're running  
13 late that means there's stuff happening along the line and  
14 whatever else. So that's just my experience. I have no clue  
15 whether that's accurate or not. I didn't pay any attention after  
16 that.

17 So the train was supposed to come at around 10:10 and I  
18 texted him that -- I think it was supposed to come at 10:10, I  
19 don't know, but I texted him that I would probably be in closer to  
20 10:30. Oh, I know what it was, it supposed to come in at 9:50 and  
21 it takes about 15 to 20 minutes to get out of the parking decks  
22 and to drive home --

23 Q. Sure.

24 A. -- and so I just added 20 minutes onto that and said  
25 we'll be closer to 10:30.

1           I do know that there were mechanical failures because  
2 they made announcements about that both at Union Station, D.C. and  
3 along the route. They specifically weren't able to stock the café  
4 car in time and so it did not open. And so they had to make a  
5 couple of announcements to reassure the passengers that yeah,  
6 yeah, yeah, you'll get your food and drinks, just, you know, give  
7 us time to finish stocking it.

8           And at some point they had. I would say -- I don't  
9 think there's any way it was before BWI, but it might have been as  
10 far as Baltimore. But I wasn't getting up so I wasn't  
11 particularly tracking that.

12         Q.    Okay.

13         A.    Okay?

14         Q.    Um-hum.

15         A.    I just --

16         Q.    But they did make some announcements about some kind of  
17 mechanical problems?

18         A.    The message board at Union Station specifically said  
19 mechanical problems. I thought they said on the incoming train,  
20 but I could have been mistaken.

21                One of the things I said to [REDACTED] is that I have a Ph.D.  
22 in psychometrics and I know that memories get distorted by events  
23 like this, so I'm trusting you to check the right things, okay?

24         Q.    Sure.

25         A.    I know also for sure that I had initially sat down at

1 the wrong waiting area because it's a Northeast Corridor but it  
2 was actually the one going southbound, okay? So I know for sure  
3 there was a delay going out because that was a different message,  
4 but I'm not sure if they were cycling everything there and my  
5 brain associated it with that. Okay, so you'll check that  
6 before --

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. Cool. But I do think it was about that. What time did  
9 I send you the message, [REDACTED]?

10 So all I know, I texted my husband I was like, oh yeah,  
11 I forgot to text him beforehand. He doesn't worry about me. I  
12 come in -- he will now, but he didn't then. I take the train to  
13 Metro Park and then I walk to my car that's been there all day and  
14 drive home. So I just added the about 20 minutes that that takes  
15 and then ball-parked it with a little bit of a cushion so that he  
16 doesn't worry if there's like a lot of traffic at the lights or  
17 anything. And so I'm 95 percent certain I had sent him that text  
18 before I hit New Carrollton, because I try to be good about it and  
19 I'm really bad, so I knew I was okay.

20 MR. **Passenger**: There were two texts, one you sent me at  
21 6:50, "By the way I'm taking a later train but it's running late.  
22 On time would be home around 10:20." Then at 7:25 you said, "Left  
23 at 7:20. Guess I'll be home around 10:30. If later than 11, I'll  
24 call."

25 MS. **Passenger**: Okay. So what that means is that I -- I'm



1 usually on the 6:05, that gets me home 9:30ish, and so then I  
2 looked up --

3 (Phone vibrating)

4 MS. **Passenger**: Could you take this and then just tell  
5 him, I'll get back to him?

6 MR. **Passenger**: Yeah.

7 MS. **Passenger**: That's one of my bosses.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh.

9 MS. **Passenger**: I'm sorry. I just need to --

10 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

11 Q. Okay. No problem. Take your time.

12 So we left off at New Carrollton --

13 A. They didn't let me drink anything at all, even ice  
14 chips, for more than 24 hours and I'm still trying to catch up.

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. So we didn't leave as late as I thought, but the 10:20  
17 on time means I looked up the schedule and it said it would get  
18 there at 10:20. So when it's 10 minutes -- my assumption was if  
19 it was 10 minutes behind, I'd be there at 10:30. And if I sent it  
20 at 7:24, we really weren't that far. We really were that close.

21 My vague memory, I do work on the train back so I don't  
22 really care much. I look up at the Susquehanna and the Chesapeake  
23 and I smile at the sunset kind of thing, but I don't really care  
24 about the timing too much. But I do have memories of stopping for  
25 -- on sidings for a fair amount of time. Not -- and not sidings.

1 I don't really mean sidings because those go off of the main  
2 track, right? It was more a matter of when you've done this a few  
3 times you realize that once you're delayed, the trains are  
4 scheduled so closely that you basically have to wait for the on-  
5 time trains to go through and they pull you over a little bit,  
6 like one track or something --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- whatever, at least that's my experience. I may be  
9 making this up. I basically just mean that -- I take Amtrak. I  
10 take New Jersey Transit. I take the PATH train. I take the  
11 subways. So, and probably more in the last year than in the  
12 previous 20 years. So -- I have a degree in physics. It's just  
13 something keeping my mind occupied, okay?

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. So I do feel that somewhere near Perryville that we  
16 might have been stopped, but I don't know that that's where it was  
17 because I think all the tracks sort of -- all the stations are  
18 confused in my mind right now.

19 I know that we pulled into Philadelphia. I don't have  
20 any clue at all if it was on time or not. I'm just going on  
21 hearsay from everybody else. I do know that there was no problem  
22 before the Boathouse Row, which is on the other side of the  
23 Schuylkill and the train station. So I don't know if you've ever  
24 been on that stretch of track or if you're, like, not from here at  
25 all.

1 Q. I'm not from here at all.

2 A. The reason I'm pretty solid with that memory is in the  
3 morning, so with the change of time and it getting lighter and  
4 lighter, I could actually see the rowers. The Boathouse Row is --  
5 I think it might be in a park but I'm not positive. It's where  
6 all the crew teams go out of. And so what happened yesterday  
7 morning -- no, Tuesday morning, was that my daughter actually was  
8 at Temple for a while and so I just texted her for no reason, I'm  
9 like, hey, just curious, you know, who owns these Boathouse Row  
10 things? And then they're lit at night with what would be  
11 Christmas lights anywhere else at any time of the year, so the  
12 whole buildings are outlined.

13 So I saw it in the daylight going down and in the  
14 nighttime coming back it was lit, okay. It was after 9; it was  
15 pretty dark, right. And so it caught my mind, okay, here's where  
16 you're at **Passen**, you're now past Boathouse Row in Schuylkill. But  
17 it wasn't long after that, that I basically had the thought go  
18 through my mind, like what the fuck is happening? And I looked up  
19 and there was a guy a row ahead of me and to my left who was  
20 looking back with the same thought.

21 So we were -- if we were going this way and we were  
22 taking a curve to the left, we had started going like this, like  
23 you were noticeably off the vertical as we're coming around. But  
24 then we thought -- we did a little bit of rock back, okay, but it  
25 either over corrected, like went too far over and then over

1 corrected, or it didn't quite make it all the way. Because I did  
2 think -- it was long enough at an angle that I thought, oh my God,  
3 oh my God. And then I thought, okay, we might make it. And then  
4 it tilted to the right and I was like, holy shit, we're never  
5 going to make it, and I really didn't think I was going to make it  
6 out.

7           And then so I have some memory of tossing and turning,  
8 but it was completely dark by that time. I have no accuracy, no  
9 anything. My injuries are consistent with I had started -- I was  
10 sitting in the seat against the window on the right-hand side  
11 going north, and my injuries are consistent with banging both  
12 sides and like the inner -- my inner right thigh.

13           So I think what happened was I was thrown clear that-a-  
14 way and that's when I hit that. I'm really not sure. You have  
15 experts in that; I'm sure you'll figure it out. But then I have  
16 bruises on my whole left side of my body, and then when I came  
17 to -- so I have this like psychedelic flipping thing in my head,  
18 you know, and then the injury -- where I woke up -- I was  
19 unconscious for a while. When I came to, because ██████ asked me  
20 this, when I came to nobody had been gotten off our car yet. They  
21 were still calling 911.

22           The woman behind me or somewhere in the car not too far  
23 from me was pregnant and she had an exact location, like, she had  
24 a track number of some sort. I don't have any clue. She must  
25 have had a great smartphone app or something. I have no clue, but

1 she called 911 and exactly where they are. And then somebody  
2 else, I guess, you know, wanted to call 911 too, whether they  
3 didn't know she had or whatever else, and then they were already  
4 reporting that, yes, we know there's a track, you know, hang in  
5 there, help is on the way, kind of thing.

6 I don't have a sense of passage of time at that point.

7 Q. So was your car flipped over on its side or do you  
8 recall?

9 A. So I'm not a million percent certain of anything. Where  
10 I ended up was -- so if you have L-seats like this, right, and you  
11 have two of them and then there's two in front of you. I was  
12 totally trapped between two sets of L-seats where I was  
13 essentially bent down, waist forward over the one ahead of me; and  
14 the one behind me, there's a little bit of an L, but my body was  
15 in this little bit of a hole here from the top of this one to this  
16 one.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. So I was having trouble breathing right about at my  
19 sternum, more or less. So I could try and push up a little bit  
20 occasionally to just get a little bit more breathing room and then  
21 I'd put down. So where I was there. And then I know that I was  
22 in that angle because the other two things I could do to relieve  
23 the pain and discomfort and scariness of not being able to breathe  
24 was I could support my body with my right arm approximately where  
25 the train -- the side meets the top.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Okay?

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. But then it moved a little bit and what happened was,  
5 there was three of us, I think, in maybe about four rows, and  
6 anytime they made one effort to move somebody out of one, it would  
7 impact all of us. So I don't know if I started there and moved.  
8 I'm not clear on that part totally.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So I was able -- and part of the pain you hear in my  
11 voice now is just moving my body to those locations is the  
12 muscular pains that I have that -- like so I know where it is, so  
13 like right here is where it's most painful, so that's sort of how  
14 I held myself this way.

15 But the other thing that I was doing was the seat next  
16 to me, and I can't even imagine how this is, okay. I don't know  
17 if somebody used a lever to put it down or the lever in front to  
18 put it out, but there's -- if I'm against the two against the  
19 wall, the two on the aisle, I was able to hold one so that I could  
20 pull myself towards it a little and relieve the pressure on the  
21 right side and on my abdomen and sternum areas.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So somehow I was trapped between these things. They  
24 asked me if I could move. I'm like, no way. The first, first  
25 responders were probably a little bit less trained in all of this

1 stuff, said the same thing, and one of the guys wanted to try and  
2 just pull me and the other guy is like, no way, stop it, don't do  
3 that. I know that I was about -- I know I was in the quiet car,  
4 no question on that one, because there was just enough noise that  
5 I wanted to say something to somebody. Did the little kid make it  
6 out? You know, I don't want to know.

7 Q. No, I don't know.

8 A. At one point I wanted to throw out some garbage so I  
9 walked to the front, which is where the garbage is, and out of  
10 curiosity I looked and I would guess I was about one-third going  
11 frontwards; there was one-third of the car ahead of me and two-  
12 thirds of the car behind me.

13 Q. I was just going to ask you about how many seats.

14 A. Right, that's about my best guess because I don't know  
15 how many seats there were.

16 [REDACTED] takes that train line a lot so he understood this  
17 totally. I don't know how helpful it is to you. I basically got  
18 on the rear of that car, okay. So they line the cars up, at Union  
19 Station you start at the platform at the back, not at the sides.  
20 So everybody walks on from the back, right, and you walk up.  
21 Okay, so all the people who have never done this before get on the  
22 first car. Well, that's stupid. So then there's a second car and  
23 third car, okay. My preference is to take the café car. So I got  
24 in through the café car and there were no seats in either one of  
25 the café cars. I said, screw it, I'll just keep walking forward

1 and if I'm walking forward I'll go to the quiet car, okay?

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I never do business class. I wasn't in business class.  
4 So it was the quiet car. Now, when you go in from the back, the  
5 majority of people fill the car from the back up, except there's a  
6 few people who know that they want to be in the quiet car and they  
7 don't want to wait for people to put their luggage out and they go  
8 to the front of the car and come back, okay.

9 So there were a couple of people ahead of me there, and  
10 I got to the point where it stopped being one person per row and  
11 there were a couple of empty rows, you know, two seaters, empty  
12 two seaters, okay, but there were still some people ahead of me.  
13 So that was my best guess. And then when I went to the garbage, I  
14 think I was just curious and I just looked up, you know, looked  
15 down the length of the car and thought, yeah, you're about halfway  
16 between the front and the middle.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. All right. So that's about my best guess.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I do know that when they broke the window to get us out  
21 that it sounded like it was on the far side and behind me. That  
22 is also how I remember the transport in my head. It's consistent  
23 with that. I don't know if it's consistent with where they had  
24 the broken windows.

25 Q. Is there any reason that anybody in the car didn't try



1 getting out an emergency exit window or just was everybody kind of  
2 injured and just --

3 A. It was totally -- not everybody was injured. But the  
4 one person that I know for sure wasn't injured was pregnant. So  
5 she wasn't going to be the person doing it.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And she was apologizing to us for that and I was like --  
8 you know, thank you for -- she was sharing her cell phone to allow  
9 other people to make calls and she was apologizing that she  
10 couldn't help us more.

11 I think the answer to your question, and this is just an  
12 impression, is there was nowhere to go out the right side going  
13 forward.

14 Q. Because you were on the ground?

15 A. I think.

16 Q. Yeah, okay.

17 A. But I did watch about 30 seconds of coverage and I said,  
18 I can't do this. So I don't know if it's in my head that way or  
19 if it's accurate, okay. So I was on the quiet car and, like I  
20 said, it did not feel unstable, by the way. So it's not like it  
21 was out over air. I never -- if you said to me you were hanging  
22 out over nothing, I wouldn't agree with you, okay. So it must  
23 have been on the ground or at least enough of a stuff that -- I  
24 don't want to see that right now.

25 Q. Sure.

1           A.    Maybe later.  It's not like every time somebody moved on  
2 the cart the whole cart shook.  okay, there were issues about  
3 specific seats being caught in against each other, so they needed  
4 to use spreaders and saws and they had to be careful that what's  
5 happening -- you know, at different times.

6                    At one time when they were getting the guy behind me,  
7 they increased my pain greatly.  That might be where this one came  
8 from.  So we were like this.  It was really, really hard just  
9 listening.  I couldn't really see much.  There were no --

10          Q.    No lights?

11          A.    I don't know if it was emergency lights or street  
12 lights.  There wasn't enough light to see more than --

13          Q.    Okay.

14          A.    -- more than -- you know, it's almost as bad as it is in  
15 the hospital at night.  You know, like I could tell that there was  
16 a black woman across the aisle from me, and that was about all I  
17 could tell, a little bit heavysset.  I mean, like I couldn't tell  
18 much more.  I couldn't move much and truthfully I just wasn't  
19 concerned too much with that.

20          Q.    Right.

21          A.    They were able to pass cell phones, so there must have  
22 been some kind of light that it wasn't like, where did the cell  
23 phone go?

24          Q.    Right.

25          A.    But I get the impression that the emergency windows

1 would have been above them and nobody had the -- it was very  
2 traumatic. I know I was running on adrenaline for quite a while  
3 but I don't know that -- you know, my body, I was in such pain and  
4 shock. I don't know that everybody else ran on the adrenaline  
5 that long, you know.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. So I don't know that it even occurred to me until you  
8 said it right now, why didn't somebody try and push that out? So  
9 whether it was just because, holy shit, or whether it was just not  
10 feasible; I don't know.

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. Okay. So at some point after a while, which felt like a  
13 really, really long time but it was probably 10 or 15 minutes; I  
14 don't know. I really don't know.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Okay. I think I called you at 10:25?

17 MR. **Passenger**: 10:36.

18 MS. **Passenger**: 10:36. I'm sorry. I know for sure that  
19 when you called me the first time, what happened was our 18-year-  
20 old daughter heard about it on Buzzfeed and said, dad, is this the  
21 train mom's coming in on? She was at home.

22 My phone was actually in my front pocket and I couldn't  
23 move to reach it, and I knew that that's who it was and I just  
24 couldn't do anything about it and I felt horrible about it.

25 Q. Sure.

1           A.    So -- but I couldn't move to get it and I wasn't even  
2   sure I had it until after they're moving me.  So just hanging on  
3   that, that's why he has some time stamps for you.

4           MR. **Passenger** :  10:36.

5           MS. **Passenger** :  Yeah.  And he first heard about around 10,  
6   and I think it's just like ██████ found out about it then.  When  
7   his phone started ringing for me, I knew that it was after we were  
8   already getting help.  Like, in my head I was like, oh God, he's  
9   heard about it, I'm so sorry, like in my head; I'm really sorry I  
10  can't reassure you, honey.  But it was not, I'm sorry, it was not  
11  a priority to that point because really I was just trying to keep  
12  easing at the pressure so I could keep breathing.

13           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14           Q.    Sure.

15           A.    There was smoke at some point.  It may be that the smoke  
16  started to increase with the broken window, but I can't swear one  
17  way or the other.  But I was not aware of smoke and then I became  
18  aware of smoke.  So when I came to, that was not what I came to.  
19  So when I came to, nobody had broken in yet and nobody was out of  
20  our car yet and people were screaming.

21                   And then when we first started getting first responders,  
22  they've already, you know, correctly said we have to get the  
23  people who are okay and out, out of the room so we can find who's  
24  in -- and then they -- I don't know -- I suspect there were people  
25  trapped further back but I don't really know.

1           What happened was there were five of us within a very  
2 small area, maybe four seats by the four seats across, maybe five  
3 seats by the four seats across. There was a guy with a broken  
4 pelvis or hip that he suffered; he couldn't move. He was in  
5 agony. He sounded like one or two rows ahead. And the woman who  
6 was pregnant had started out a little bit behind me and passed him  
7 her phone. His elderly mother, like 70, was picking him up and he  
8 just wanted to get out the message that I'm at least right now  
9 still fine.

10         Q.     Right.

11         A.     Right. And then there was, I think, a heavysset --  
12 heavysset is an unusual word, but sort of a heavier set black  
13 woman, light-skinned black woman, across the aisle who was somehow  
14 trapped. I couldn't move enough to see how, and other people were  
15 reassuring her, but she was petrified. She was like, don't leave  
16 me, please don't leave me, don't everybody go off and leave me.  
17 And the gentleman with the pelvis was the one saying, don't worry,  
18 they're not leaving us, they're coming back, you know, keep  
19 talking, do you want to talk? She's like, no, I don't want to  
20 talk, and then later she was like, yes. He's like, do you pray?  
21 She's like, yes. He's like, you know, just keep praying. He was  
22 really -- he was great. So was the pregnant woman who was  
23 apologizing for not being able to pull us because she's pregnant.

24         Q.     Um-hum.

25         A.     So they appeared, part of the reason I think that the

1 broken window is behind us is that they seemed to be working their  
2 way towards us. And they definitely got to somebody behind me  
3 where they were using spreaders, which at first relieved it a lot,  
4 and then they did something else which made it worse; whatever,  
5 you know, they had to do that.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. But they're very aware of it at that point and they sort  
8 of seem to assign people like, okay, I'm going to watch, you know,  
9 these people are working with this guy, these guys are watching  
10 this one, this one's watching this one, you know, so that they  
11 became aware of, you know, what movements might be impacting  
12 further down the line.

13 They had started with testing the body parts attached to  
14 people that are alive, that was my impression. They're like  
15 they're doing this to see if they get a response. I'm like, yeah,  
16 I'm here, I'm here, and they seemed to be doing that like to my  
17 foot, which was sort of a different place, and --

18 Q. Like counting people?

19 A. Yeah. Maybe because it's easier to get the conscious  
20 out first is better, I have no clue, but they seemed to be trying  
21 to do that. So then my glasses -- I don't see well at all -- were  
22 sort of like this or squeezed or whatever. I did not lose them,  
23 which is its own miracle --

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. -- but the reason I'm telling you is, I couldn't see

1 that much about the people who were helping me. They seemed to  
2 all have uniforms on and stuff. Philly Fire Department, I assume;  
3 they did say the fire department. I know there were cops around.  
4 I know there were a lot of volunteers around too. I don't know.

5 They ended up sawing a couple of the things that I was  
6 around but they weren't able to move anything enough to like free  
7 me and lay me down or anything like that.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. They had to -- they used a, I don't know if it was a  
10 half board or a full board, and a sling. So they're like you're  
11 going to have just to do this. And I thought to myself, you  
12 really need to lose weight because it was just cutting. So I  
13 really had to do one of these try and suck it in, try and slide  
14 through. Definitely some of these bruises are simply that, the  
15 getting out part.

16 And then they're like, stop, don't -- you know, wait  
17 there. And then they lined up a half board or -- I think it was a  
18 half board, I really do, and basically at least four guys had to  
19 pull to get me up on the board. But then I don't know if the  
20 sling was under there before or not, but they were definitely --  
21 so they had to get me -- you know, the sling might have been  
22 outside the train. This part I'm really just not clear on. They  
23 sort of passed me and carried me a distance inside of the train.  
24 It felt like a long time, but I kept wanting --

25 Q. Through the window that they broke?

1           A.    Yeah.  It felt like a long time, but that's just because  
2 I so badly wanted out.  I don't know that it was, okay.

3                    They passed me sort of one of, you know, this kind of  
4 thing.  They got me to there and then things shifted a little  
5 where they all went, whoa, whoa, whoa, you know, kind of thing,  
6 but I don't know what that was about.  And then I think maybe a  
7 sling was out there and they put the whole board and me into the  
8 sling thing and they had -- honestly, they had to have at least  
9 six guys walking me.  And I thought I would be walking, you know,  
10 20 yards away to safety.

11           Q.    It was a long --

12           A.    It was a very long walk, and they were talking about  
13 live wires and being careful here and there.  At one point I felt  
14 like we were going downhill.  They were aware of it and made some  
15 adjustments.  Only one time I said, guys, I think I'm falling out,  
16 you know, but that might have been totally my impression.

17                    So then they get me to some kind of staging area.  Well,  
18 actually they never put me on the ground wherever I was, but I was  
19 into a paddy wagon, which was really not comfortable, but it  
20 wasn't moving and it was safe so it was okay.  It was no padding  
21 at all and I was on the board on the thing and they're all rushing  
22 to get us to the hospital and I was like, stop.  You know, like  
23 every bump was just a nightmare.

24                    There were four Asian people who had come from the café  
25 car, they said.  One of them had injured her leg and needed



1 medical attention, but I got the impression that the others, that  
2 they may not have spoken English or one of them may not have and  
3 they just had to stay together.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Okay, or they wanted to be with their family, whichever  
6 way. One of them definitely needed medical attention. I'm not as  
7 clear on the other three. The guy who helped me was a guy who is  
8 named Jerry. He is an EMT.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. He was off duty and when he heard about it, he came in,  
11 which I heard many times through the night. They just all came to  
12 help. So he was off duty so he was helping in the paddy wagon,  
13 right, getting me there. And he was clearly trained. I don't  
14 know all of his -- he gave you the last name, but I suspect you  
15 have no clue at all. He called --

16 MR. **Passenger**: When he called, I was on the Turnpike on  
17 my way down and --

18 MS. **Passenger**: Because we live in North Jersey and he was  
19 trying to get to me. I think it was around 10:24 because he made  
20 the call on my train -- on my cell phone.

21 MR. **Passenger**: No, that was (indiscernible)

22 MS. **Passenger**: Oh, he made it on his cell phone?

23 MR. **Passenger**: No, it was on your cell phone; it was  
24 after 11.

25 MS. **Passenger**: Okay. So that's -- I called him at like

1 10:24 --

2 MR. **Passenger** : 10:36.

3 MS. **Passenger** : 10:36, right, sorry, 10:36. So whenever  
4 it happened to 10:36. It was maybe 5 feet outside the window. It  
5 was the first thing I tried to do. Now that I can move, like --

6 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7 Q. You had just been released?

8 A. Yeah. Not just released inside, released outside of the  
9 car. So now I could feel a sling and I felt it would be safe to  
10 try and get my phone out of my pocket. I didn't want to lose it.  
11 It was my only communication with my husband.

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. Okay, so I didn't do it inside the car. I just went in  
14 there and I picked it up and the first words out of my mouth were,  
15 I'm alive. I said, I don't know much more than that right now. I  
16 don't know where I'm going. I don't know what they're doing with  
17 us, but I'm alive; I'll stay in touch. That is what I remember of  
18 our side of the conversation, and he wanted more but I was like  
19 I'm not going to make their life harder doing this. They were  
20 carrying me at the time. I just put it away back into my pocket.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. So from 10:36 until whenever I got here --

23 MR. **Passenger** : 11:07 was when the EMT called me from your  
24 phone.

25 MS. **Passenger** : Okay. So when he called was, I'm pretty

1 sure he called when they arrived either at Temple or it sounded  
2 like there was a semi-staging area before you got to Temple.

3 MR. **Passenger**: Excuse me. It sounded like you were still  
4 at the staging area because you said --

5 MS. **Passenger**: The first one?

6 MR. **Passenger**: The 11:07 call from the EMT, he said that  
7 they were going to be bringing you to Temple, so you weren't there  
8 yet.

9 MS. **Passenger**: Okay. So I don't know if -- I don't think  
10 I asked him to call when we were driving. So I don't know.  
11 Sorry. They over inflate these blood pressure cuffs and now it's  
12 hurting. Stop. Release it.

13 So I don't know if it took a half hour to walk from  
14 where we were walking to get me into a paddy wagon or if it was  
15 later in the whole system.

16 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Then they drove us really quickly, too quickly for my  
19 comfort but probably what needed to be done. But I wasn't on a  
20 stretcher -- I wasn't on a padded stretcher and I could feel  
21 everything, and then I got here.

22 Q. Okay. And what types of injuries did you sustain, do  
23 you know?

24 A. Sort of. They're trying to protect us for some of it  
25 and that's fine.

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. So, for instance, I know that I had a collapsed lung for  
3 a while but they're like, that's not important. I'm thinking, it  
4 was important when my dad had it, so I don't know.

5 Q. So with a collapsed lung you had some --

6 A. Partially collapsed.

7 Q. -- rib fractures?

8 A. Well, nobody said rib fractures, so I don't know about  
9 that. We should probably get -- my sister is a surgeon on the  
10 other side of country. We should probably make her get the full  
11 file.

12 I know that there's evidence -- they did bring me in as  
13 Trauma 1 and they did bring me in to do full CAT scans because of  
14 where I said I had pain. [REDACTED] rather, I could hear him  
15 asking the guy to call ahead, and I guess the paddy wagon guys  
16 just aren't used to this, you know, they're just picking up drunks  
17 on the street. And by the time he figured out what it was, he's  
18 like, never mind we're two blocks away, we'll just tell him when  
19 we get there. But he was saying that he -- possible pelvis break  
20 or hip break because that's where --

21 Q. Okay, pelvic fracture?

22 A. Yeah, possible. But it turned out to be, it looks like,  
23 is that I had done some damage to my liver, maybe, and there's a  
24 small tear or bleeding around the liver encased in something. So  
25 it turns out that it might be organ damage, which is why I ended

1 up up here.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. All of the other things are -- they x-rayed me for lots  
4 of things. Like the fingers, which you can see are all black and  
5 blue, I can now bend to this point. So they're not broken, the  
6 hand is not broken. I have major bruises on my thigh --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- my right thigh, both on the top and on the inside of  
9 that. I have a major bruise on my back right shoulder blade. I  
10 have pain still in the middle of my back by where a bra strap  
11 would be. And now, late yesterday or early this morning, I  
12 started getting new pains on the side here. But they -- I don't  
13 know if they x-rayed my ribs or if that comes out in a CAT scan,  
14 in the CT scan I guess it does.

15 Q. I think they would be able to tell from a CT scan.

16 A. Yeah. But nobody said don't -- you know, they had me  
17 laying down for more than 24 hours with the neck brace on --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- so it took a while before they decided that I was  
20 okay for that part. They seem to be much more concerned about the  
21 liver piece.

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. But they're moving me out as soon as you're done with  
24 me.

25 Q. Okay.

1           A.    Not out of the hospital, to the next -- a regular room.  
2 I'm not ICU anymore.

3           Q.    Right, right.

4           A.    Did I miss anything? So partial lung collapse, liver  
5 damage, and tons and tons and tons --

6           Q.    Major bruises.

7           A.    -- of bruising and things.

8           Q.    Okay.

9           A.    If I can walk away with that, I'm --

10          Q.    Right, yeah.

11               MR. **Passenger**: Also, some blood around the mesentery,  
12 which is the lining --

13               MS. **Passenger**: Yeah, that goes to the small colon.

14               MR. **Passenger**: -- above the colon.

15               MS. **Passenger**: Yeah. So there was two areas of blood  
16 that were causing this concern and there are about nine million  
17 doctors helping me, so I just sort of let it go. My sister is a  
18 physical therapist. She came in, and does lots of medical stuff,  
19 so came in to keep [REDACTED] company and discuss some of the stuff.  
20 And I think at some point she texted my brother-in-law who is  
21 internal medicine on the West Coast and my sister who is in Paris  
22 traveling because she's a surgeon.

23               So whatever she was telling them wasn't enough that  
24 we'll drop everything and come, which they would have done if it  
25 was a drop everything and come situation. And I think in many

1 respects people are just like, yeah, you're in a lot of pain,  
2 you're so damn lucky to be in a lot of pain. And I really don't  
3 mean that in a critical way at all. The nursing and medical staff  
4 have been awesome.

5 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

6 Q. Great.

7 A. And the first responders were awesome too, they really  
8 were. And they were clearly scared to death and they just did  
9 what they had to do, which is good.

10 Q. Okay. Well, I tell you what, that was a -- you've given  
11 a great statement here, I mean, very descriptive.

12 A. I hope most of it's true. They really were -- they did  
13 everything they could.

14 Q. Right. And then as for seating, you said you were in  
15 the quiet car --

16 A. Definitely in the quiet car, definitely in the front  
17 half, definitely sat originally on the right side against a  
18 window.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I'm positive of all that.

21 Q. And you're about a third of the way --

22 A. I think I was at least between a half --

23 Q. A third to like half of the way back?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Well, between the two-thirds mark and the one --

2 Q. Half mark?

3 A. Okay. So let's change it to money so we'll do this. If  
4 the back of the car was zero --

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. -- 50 cents, 66 cents and 75 cents. I'm pretty sure I  
7 was between 66 and 75.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. That's where I'm pretty sure I was. I'll definitely  
10 take the bet above 50 and I would definitely -- I would almost  
11 take the bet that I'm below 75.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. So somewhere right around there.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Again, just because, you know, you get up to throw  
16 garbage out, there's not a lot to think about.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. You throw the garbage out, you look around, and that's  
19 where you are.

20 Q. Okay. And I don't know if I -- and your date of birth  
21 you said was --

22 A. [REDACTED].

23 Q. [REDACTED].

24 A. And this is your card, right?

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. That concludes the



1 interview with **Passenger 5**. It is approximately 5 after 1.  
2 (Whereupon, at 1:05 p.m., the interview was concluded.)  
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 5**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, PA

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Michelle Smiroldo  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 6**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Investigator-in-Charge

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator-in-Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Telephone Interview of **Passenger 6** :

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Let me start off with -- your first name  
3 is [REDACTED], your last name is spelled [REDACTED]?

4 **Passenger 6**: That's correct.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: And your date of birth is? Is it --

6 **Passenger 6**: [REDACTED].

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And this number, the [REDACTED],  
8 that's a good number to reach you on?

9 **Passenger 6**: Yeah. That's my cell phone.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, great.

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 6**

11 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12 Q. So, basically, **Passenger 6**, I just want to get a  
13 statement. If you could start with telling me where you got on  
14 the train, where you were -- if you remember, where you were  
15 seated, what car you were on, leading all the way up to the crash,  
16 and if you ended up at the hospital, and that.

17 A. Okay, sure. So, I was on board the -- do I have to give  
18 it to you with all the specifics, like Amtrak 188 and all that  
19 kind of stuff or just --

20 Q. No, no. We know that.

21 A. Okay. Okay, gotcha.

22 Q. If you just remember which car you were in and seat you  
23 were in.

24 A. Yeah, yeah. I was in the quiet car, which is the second  
25

1 of the passenger cars of the train. I was seated near the back of  
2 the train, on the left-hand side. I don't remember exactly which  
3 seat. I guess, after Philadelphia, when this occurred, I was just  
4 watching or listening to something on my phone and kind of  
5 resting. So I wasn't sitting upright; I was kind of slouched over  
6 in the seat. There was no one in the seat next to me, so I had  
7 the whole two seats to myself.

8           And I noticed that -- I had my headphones in, I believe,  
9 and then there was some -- I heard some people kind of raising  
10 their voices. I don't know exactly what they said, but, you know,  
11 I looked up and I noticed that the train started to move or tilt  
12 to the right-hand side. And I didn't think -- I've taken this  
13 train many, many times, not at this exact time, but I go back and  
14 forth between New York and Maryland many -- I've probably been on  
15 that route maybe a hundred times. And I noticed the train start  
16 to tilt to the right. For a split second, I didn't -- wasn't too  
17 concerned because I just figured, you know, it's just -- maybe  
18 we're on a bumpy stretch of track. But then when the train kept  
19 leaning more and more, I guess that's when the -- that's when I  
20 heard some people kind of say things or raise their voices. Then  
21 I realized that this was -- something was definitely wrong. And I  
22 didn't really have much time to think about it, and then, of  
23 course, the train was on its side and there was -- as you probably  
24 know, it skidded for quite a while. It was very violent, very  
25 loud. And I don't know how long it was; it might have been 10

1 seconds, but everything seemed very -- like it was in slow motion.  
2 I don't know if anyone else has said that, but that's what it felt  
3 like.

4           And then after that, the train came to a stop eventually  
5 and it was very quiet. I didn't hear anything. And I would  
6 imagine most people, like myself, were probably a bit in a state  
7 of shock, kind of wondering if -- what really -- if what happened  
8 really happened. And so, I was trying to get my bearings and  
9 figure out what was going on. I felt a little banged up, but I  
10 was okay. And there were -- I only saw a few people. There was a  
11 couple kind of under me. The train was kind of almost upside down  
12 completely, so I'm a little fuzzy on the details because I think I  
13 was a little trying to get my bearings and just trying to -- I  
14 guess I was in some form of -- I don't want to say shock, but a  
15 little -- it was a little confusing. I didn't really hear many  
16 people or I didn't hear anyone. I think most people were probably  
17 still trying to figure out what was going on.

18           I saw one lady who was walking around, a young lady, and  
19 she was -- I noticed she was kind of -- I think, if I -- she might  
20 have been covered in like soot and stuff and kind of dirty. The  
21 people below me were kind of -- I couldn't really tell if they  
22 were wedged in or not.

23           I had my phone in my hand, so I was able to -- I guess,  
24 kind of was able to stand up and I noticed I was standing on the  
25 roof of a car. And I saw kind of an opening in the back of the



1 train which, I guess, was the back door, which was open. And I  
2 remember kind of sliding across this one -- I don't know what it  
3 was, but the opening -- there was a little bit of an opening. I  
4 was able to kind of slide through there just to make my way to the  
5 door, and then I was able to get out onto the train tracks, and I  
6 just kind of tried to orient myself with kind of what was going  
7 on.

8 I saw some people already outside and I was going to  
9 call 911, but it looks like everybody else was doing that, so --  
10 and then I noticed that some people needed to use the phone, so  
11 someone asked me if they could use my phone. You know, I called  
12 my folks to let them know I was okay and then let someone else use  
13 my phone. I noticed at that time, the firefighters and the, you  
14 know, the professionals were on the scene at that time. They were  
15 there pretty quickly, maybe 5 or 10 minutes. So -- and that was  
16 kind of -- that's kind of about all I can remember.

17 In terms of the actual derailment, I know there were  
18 people that were saying they saw some lights or they heard  
19 something. I didn't hear anything, I didn't see anything, nothing  
20 -- I told detective I didn't see anything suspicious. All -- the  
21 first thing I noticed was when the train was leaning and then  
22 people kind of raised their voices, so -- which I know doesn't  
23 probably help you guys much, but that was my experience.

24 Q. Sure.

25 A. And -- yeah, just that's kind of it in a nutshell.

1 Q. Okay. Now, so was there anybody trying to open up any  
2 of the windows?

3 A. Not that I could tell. I mean, I only saw about three  
4 people. And I had strained my shoulder, I noticed, so I wasn't  
5 really in a position to necessarily -- I couldn't really figure  
6 out how to help the people below me, so I figured I'd try and get  
7 outside and call for help, and just to figure out where we were.  
8 I didn't -- I had no idea if we were -- I just didn't even know  
9 where we were at the time. I don't -- because I don't even think  
10 I was -- I noticed that we were necessarily in, around  
11 Philadelphia.

12 But as far as inside the car when I was there, no, no  
13 one was -- I didn't really see anyone attempt to get out a window.  
14 I didn't really see anyone. So, it was very quiet and I think  
15 people were just probably just thinking, you know, what just  
16 happened?

17 Q. I'm sure.

18 A. Yeah, the -- I can say from seeing the outside of the  
19 train, I know that there -- in our particular car near the front,  
20 I guess, there was a beam, a steel beam that hit it, which I  
21 didn't notice when I was in the train. There's -- I think there  
22 was a light -- the train has some kind of a backup lighting  
23 system --

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. -- in the roof or something, so it wasn't pitch black in

1 there. It was still pretty dark, but there was, like, that little  
2 bit of lighting in there. But --

3 Q. Like an emergency lighting? Like emergency --

4 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And -- yeah, but that was about  
5 it. But I didn't really see anything -- yeah, I didn't notice  
6 anything with that beam in it or anything that was, you know,  
7 really any large damage to the car other than -- I mean, because  
8 that was probably a good 20 or 25 feet up. But all I noticed,  
9 obviously, was that the car was almost upside down and -- yeah, I  
10 think I was just trying to mentally kind of, you know, get a hold  
11 on what was going on. So, it was very confusing --

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. -- for a minute or two. Yeah.

14 Q. Sure. Now, do you recall the luggage racks that were  
15 above you, do you recall, did any of those fall down?

16 A. No, I don't recall any of those things. I know that  
17 when I boarded the train, there's an area in the back where there  
18 are -- there's kind of an empty space where people put their bags  
19 on the floor and they kind of stack -- I mean, they kind of -- you  
20 know, in place of seats, it looks like some area where -- I don't  
21 know, people just kind of -- there's a, a space and I guess people  
22 put their bags there. Fortunately, I didn't get hit with any bags  
23 or anything like that.

24 I think the way that I was just kind of slouched might  
25 have helped me because all I remember was kind of being bounced

1 around, but kind of within those seats. And I remember the seats,  
2 the cushioning on the seats feeling like -- I never really got  
3 hurt, per se, or I never really experienced a big pain while this  
4 was -- while the derailment was happening. Later, and the doctors  
5 probably said it was because of the adrenalin, I noticed -- well,  
6 I was kind of covered with soot and I had some blood on my neck.  
7 I had a superficial wound on my head. I didn't even feel that  
8 when it was -- you know, I have some blood that was dried up in my  
9 hair and stuff. And it's weird because I just, I had no sensation  
10 of anything hitting my head in that way that would cause a cut  
11 like that. I mean, I just kind of felt bounced around within the  
12 seats. So, the first --

13 Q. So you remained in that same seat row you were in to  
14 start the trip?

15 A. During -- yeah. Well --

16 Q. Or were you thrown --

17 A. You mean is that --

18 Q. -- out of that seat? Were you thrown out of the seat  
19 when the -- with the crash or ---

20 A. That's what I'm trying to figure out because it was -- I  
21 felt like while the train was skidding, I felt like I was in -- I  
22 was in that same seat, yes. And I don't really think -- and I  
23 guess when the train -- when everything stopped, I must have  
24 landed on my feet or something. I don't remember kind of getting,  
25 like, getting up. I think I was kind of standing in place or

1 something. It was -- that's all I can really remember. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. Now, you said that you were -- do you recall,  
3 were you in the aisle seat or the window seat?

4 A. I was in the aisle seat on the left-hand side and I  
5 might have been leaning a little towards the other -- like, my  
6 legs might have been a little towards the other seat. Since there  
7 wasn't anyone in there, I was just trying to rest or stretch out a  
8 little bit. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. Now, I don't recall -- where did you board the  
10 train at?

11 A. New Carrollton, Maryland.

12 Q. New Carrollton? Okay. And when you got on or -- I know  
13 there were some other, several stops after that. Do you recall,  
14 was there any kind of safety announcement made by the conductor  
15 regarding the windows or the lighting or the brochures that were  
16 in the seatback, anything like that?

17 A. No. And a lot of times when I take these trains, I kind  
18 of have -- I'm listening to, like, a podcast or music or whatever.  
19 So, sometimes -- I do remember something about the café car, you  
20 know, apologizing; oh, it's not ready yet and we'll let you know  
21 whenever, you know, that kind of thing. But I don't remember any  
22 announcement specifically about anything other than, you know, the  
23 next stop is, you know, 30th Street Station or something. It's --  
24 everything was -- no (indiscernible) --

25 Q. And you said you've taken that train maybe a hundred

1 times, correct?

2 A. Well, I don't know if it's quite a hundred, but I live  
3 and work in New York and I come back to Maryland, you know, at  
4 least several times a year, maybe once every several months. And  
5 over -- and I've been doing that at least the last -- at least  
6 since, like, 2001. So, you know, I guess if you do, you know, 10  
7 times a year or something like that, it's -- yeah, it's -- I've  
8 never had an -- you know, this obviously is the first time that  
9 something like this has happened that I know of, so --

10 Q. Right.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So, what other -- other than -- you had said you had a  
13 cut to your head. What kind of other injuries did you sustain?

14 A. I had some muscle strains, a lot of bruising which is  
15 starting to come out now. Yeah, I went to the hospital. Oh, I  
16 didn't -- I forgot to add that to my statement. I went to  
17 St. Joe's Hospital and got checked out in the emergency room.  
18 There were already about maybe six people there already. That  
19 wasn't really one of the bigger hospitals.

20 We -- myself and one other person, were probably one of  
21 the last people to be taken anywhere, so we got a ride in one of  
22 the police cars. I was dropped off there, and then the person  
23 that was with me, he wasn't really hurt, so I think they took him  
24 to 30th Street Station. And when I got to St. Joe's, I had to  
25 wait a few hours and got seen by the emergency room doctor. I was

1 just kind of banged up. He cleaned my -- the cut on my head, just  
2 kind of made sure that the wound wasn't -- didn't require any  
3 stitches or anything.

4 Q. That's good. Yeah.

5 A. I did -- you know, I was very lucky and I feel really  
6 fortunate. You know, I actually didn't feel too bad except my  
7 shoulder hurt quite a bit, but they told --

8 Q. Which shoulder was that?

9 A. My left shoulder. But they told me that -- the nurse  
10 said I'll probably start feeling it the next couple of days. They  
11 asked me if I had ever been in, like, a car accident or a serious  
12 car accident. I said no, and they said, you know, a lot of times  
13 the adrenalin will kind of mask a lot of the injuries or -- I  
14 don't think there was anything really too serious, but I think I  
15 -- the past couple of days, I've noticed some more aches and  
16 things like that. I think I have possibly a bruised rib. I don't  
17 think anything is broken, but just things like that. And, like,  
18 just my, like, my arm is -- I have this really big bruise on my  
19 bicep, which is --

20 Q. Which arm?

21 A. My left arm, left bicep -- which is turning all sorts of  
22 crazy colors and stuff. Which is weird because my bicep actually  
23 isn't -- doesn't hurt; it's within my shoulder. So my body is  
24 kind of doing these weird things, but, you know, all and all, I,  
25 you know -- I'm sure all this will be fine. So I'm just glad that

1 -- you know, it could have been a lot worse and --

2 Q. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

3 A. I think, you know, as you probably -- I don't know if  
4 you were on site, but, you know, the fact that it was over dry  
5 land, that there was no fire, there was no smoke or anything, I  
6 think everyone's -- I mean, I know there were some fatalities and  
7 that was terrible, but I think it could have been a thousand times  
8 worse.

9 Q. Oh, absolutely, yeah.

10 A. Yeah. So --

11 Q. So, you said you went to the hospital. You went --

12 A. Um-hum.

13 Q. It was a police car or was it, like, a paddy wagon?

14 A. No, it wasn't a paddy wagon; it was an actual police  
15 car.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I have -- I don't have the names of the officers that  
18 took me. I have that back up in my apartment in [REDACTED]. I came  
19 back down -- I'm in [REDACTED] now. I came back down to try and get  
20 some rest at my folks' house. The --

21 So, two officers took us to St. Joe's, or they dropped  
22 me off there. After I was done there, which was approximately  
23 5 in the morning, then everyone at that location, which were about  
24 maybe seven of us, we got into, I guess you'd call it, a paddy  
25 wagon, or it was a van with a lot of seats, and they drove us to a



1 couple different locations trying to figure out where to drop us  
2 off and, eventually, all the locations, no one was -- there really  
3 weren't -- there really wasn't anything going on at these  
4 different locations, so then they finally decided to just take us  
5 to 30th Street Station, where the Red Cross was, and they had an  
6 Amtrak representative there and we filled out a couple of, you  
7 know, forms with our information and -- because my -- and what was  
8 -- if we had anything that we needed from the train. You know, my  
9 wallet was still on there, my -- I didn't have a -- I just had a  
10 duffle bag, but, basically, all my stuff was on the train. I  
11 didn't recover any of it and --

12 Q. You still haven't gotten that back?

13 A. No. They told me it might be a few weeks and -- which I  
14 kind of -- you know, that's fine. I, you know, I just -- I went  
15 to the DMV. I got another license yesterday. And, you know, I  
16 can do without that stuff. I mean, it'd be nice to get it back at  
17 some point, but, you know, I realize there are probably a lot more  
18 pressing things right now. But the Amtrak Customer Relations  
19 called me this morning and I spoke with them for a little bit,  
20 told them what I was, you know, what I was missing, and so they  
21 didn't really tell me when I might expect to get that back. But I  
22 know that's kind of on the, you know -- that's not probably the  
23 most important thing. It's going --

24 Q. Well, it's just, you know, kind of a hassle for you to  
25 have to, you know --

1           A.    Well, I know. I just -- well, in the grand scheme of  
2 things, it's kind of not that big of a deal, you know.

3           Q.    True, very true. Yes.

4           A.    But, yeah, yeah, I -- you know, there were some things  
5 that, you know, it'd be helpful to get back, but, you know, I  
6 mean, if it takes 2 weeks, then so be it.

7           Q.    Right.

8           A.    So -- and then we basically got a bus -- they had these  
9 charter buses, which you may know, that took us back up to New  
10 York, and then -- yeah, so I got back in New York maybe, I don't  
11 know, 9 or 10 in the morning and --

12          Q.    So, before you got on the --

13          A.    Yeah?

14          Q.    -- in the police car to go to St. Joe's, did you ever  
15 talk with any of the EMTs or paramedics about injuries or if they  
16 tagged you or anything like that?

17          A.    Not really. They just said -- there was a lot of, you  
18 know, kind of -- what we did, they were saying do you guys want to  
19 -- they kept asking us do you want to go to the hospital, and I  
20 wasn't quite sure what was going on in terms of me getting back  
21 home and things like that, so it was a little -- I didn't really  
22 know. But, eventually, I said, well, yeah, I mean, yeah, I should  
23 probably go and just get checked out to be on the safe side.

24          Q.    Sure, sure.

25          A.    And there was, you know, there was some, I guess -- I

1 don't know if he was a paramedic, but a couple of guys from the  
2 fire department just said, you know, are you okay, or that kind of  
3 thing. I said, I think I'm fine, but, you know, I mean, if you  
4 guys can give me a ride or -- you know, to the hospital, I'll go  
5 get checked out, that kind of thing. You know, obviously, had a  
6 lot more people who were -- who needed, you know, I'm sure more --  
7 much more serious injuries, and I think by that time they had all  
8 pretty much gotten them out, but -- but, yeah. So --

9 Q. Okay. Now --

10 A. So, yeah, the St. Joe's Hospital wasn't really -- that  
11 was more of a trauma center. That's not really like a full-  
12 fledged hospital, apparently, is what I found out, but that was  
13 fine.

14 Q. Yeah, it's not -- like a level 1 trauma center, that's  
15 correct.

16 A. Yeah, yeah. So -- but that was fine. They were, you  
17 know -- the doctor there was nice and he just, you know, did a  
18 once over. So -- um-hum.

19 Q. Okay. Well, that's pretty much all the questions I have  
20 for you. I appreciate you taking the time and talking with me and  
21 giving me your statement here.

22 A. Oh, absolutely. If you need anything else, just --  
23 you've got my number. Just give me a call. I'm happy to help.

24 Q. Oh, there is one other thing.

25 A. Yeah?

1 Q. Your approximate height and weight?

2 A. Six feet -- I don't know -- maybe 190.

3 Q. Okay. Okay, **Passenger 6**, I appreciate -- again, I  
4 appreciate your help and cooperation and --

5 A. Absolutely. Yeah, I hope you guys are able to figure  
6 out, you know, what happened, you know.

7 Q. It's a long process. We'll figure it out.

8 A. Yeah, yeah, I know.

9 Q. It'll be a while.

10 A. I know. Okay. Well, thanks so much. If you need  
11 anything else, just give me a holler.

12 Q. And the same with you. If you remember anything, if you  
13 feel there's something else you want to add to your statement,  
14 feel free to give me a call back.

15 A. Okay, will do. Thank you.

16 Q. Thank you, sir.

17 A. Thank you very much.

18 Q. Have --

19 A. Have a great weekend.

20 Q. You too, sir.

21 A. Okay. All right, bye-bye.

22 Q. Bye-bye.

23 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 6**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.



---

Karen M. Galvez  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 7**

May 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Telephone Interview of **Passenger 7** :

By Mr. Kaminski

4



I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Give me your name again and with the  
3 spelling and all that, and we'll start from the very beginning,  
4 if you have a couple minutes.

5 **Passenger 7**: Fine. Sure. Sure. So the first  
6 name is **█**, spelled **█**. The last name is **█**  
7 **█**, **█**.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And your date of birth.

9 **Passenger 7**: My birth date is **█**.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And you gave me your approximate  
11 height and weight as **█**.

12 **Passenger 7**: That's right.

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 7**

14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15 Q. Okay. So if you could start with again, where you  
16 got -- where you boarded the train, where you were sitting, and  
17 tell me what all happened on your -- on the trip.

18 A. Sure, sure. All right. Well, I boarded the train in  
19 D.C., Union Station, and I was bound for New York, Penn Station.  
20 I was in the quiet car, so the second car from the front. I was  
21 in either the second or the third rows of seats from the front of  
22 that car; I'm not exactly sure whether I was second or the third.  
23 And I was on the right side of the train. I was in the window  
24 seat at the time of the accident and I had, you know, my backpack  
25 next to me. There was nobody sitting next to me. There was

1 somebody directly behind me and I don't recall whether there was  
2 somebody -- if -- in front of me and across.

3           So, what I remember of the accident, again, I mean, I  
4 was kind of -- you know, I was half reading a book, half starting  
5 to doze off. I remember that we were at a station, you know, I  
6 thought it was Pennsylvania -- that's right, Philadelphia,  
7 I checked and saw that indeed, it was Philadelphia. The train  
8 pulled out and again, you know, I was kind of half dozing.

9           And then the next thing I remember was, you know, there  
10 was this feeling that I know from riding the train quite often  
11 where, you know, it feels like it goes around a bend just a little  
12 bit too much speed and there's kind of a moment of vibration and  
13 you kind of give a start, and then it's okay and -- so it started  
14 feeling like that, and I thought, oh, well, you know, it's going  
15 to -- it's just that. But then the -- our car simply started  
16 tilting more and then, you know, it was -- it became obvious that  
17 it was going to fall -- topple over, basically.

18           Now, I -- you know, the lights went out. I remember  
19 that. I don't remember any sound at all, for whatever reason.  
20 And then, you know, it was just -- it was a very violent, you  
21 know, slide and tumble. You know, I -- and got tossed around, was  
22 very lucky that I, you know, didn't get hit by anything. You  
23 know, it was kind of -- don't know how that happened.

24           Q.     Right.

25           A.     And, you know, at some point, you know, a lot of dust,

1 you know. You know, I don't know if it was dust or smoke. I  
2 think of it as dust, but then it started filling the car, you  
3 know, so it -- I remember that. And the slide just continued.  
4 You know, I was -- again, you know, I was just, yeah, pretty sure  
5 that I was going to die in it. And then it just stopped. You  
6 know, and I was very surprised that it came to such a sudden,  
7 sudden stop. I mean, it felt to me like a sudden stop. You know,  
8 I know --

9 Q. Did you remain in that same seat and row where you were  
10 sitting prior to the crash?

11 A. You know, I got tossed around. I mean, I remember --  
12 the last thing I remember was that I was basically -- you know, I  
13 was with my back to, you know, the side of the train basically. I  
14 think -- you know, I don't know if I was lying on it or if I just  
15 got kind of thrown against it, but I was out of my seat and kind  
16 of pushed against the side of the -- what would have been the side  
17 of the train, that I remember. And then I don't -- you know, I  
18 got tossed around more, but I don't remember exactly how.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. And when it came to a stop, I also don't recall whether  
21 I was in the same place where my seat had been before or not. I  
22 just don't, don't know that. Now, I don't -- you know, again, I  
23 don't -- the moment right after the car came to a stop, I don't  
24 recall very well. You know, I was really kind of in a  
25 (indiscernible) panic.

1           What I do recall was that, you know, I -- you know, to  
2 my great surprise, felt that I was okay. You know, I could move  
3 and I just wanted out. And so, what I saw was, you know, there  
4 was an opening somewhere and I could kind of see that the -- the  
5 outside through it. It was brighter than the car. The car was  
6 very dark, you know, filled with dust. And, you know, what I  
7 remember is that I kind of climbed on the back of a seat toward  
8 that opening and I was surprised how easily I got out. Now,  
9 again, you know, I don't actually know what part of the train I  
10 went out of. When -- the next thing I remember though was that I  
11 was next to the train. So, I was not on top of the train; I was  
12 next to it. I kind of conjecture from the pictures that I might  
13 have exited through the -- kind of the broken, the broken  
14 connection between the cars.

15           Q.    The doorway of the -- between the first car and the  
16 quiet car where you were?

17           A.    That would make sense. I mean, it would put me in the  
18 right place once I exit. You know, I don't -- I can't be sure of  
19 it, but that's where I was once I was outside.

20           Q.    Okay.

21           A.    Now, you know, outside, I mean, I remember seeing the  
22 engine in front of me. Then, you know, I walked around the car.  
23 I saw the wreckage of the business car, which didn't make any  
24 sense to me. I didn't understand what that was. I called out  
25 because there's -- there was nobody else at that point out there.

1 I called out and, you know, some people inside the train answered.  
2 And I thought I'd have to go get help because, you know, it  
3 didn't -- I didn't -- it didn't occur to me that people might be  
4 making calls on cell phones inside. I didn't have my phone. I  
5 didn't have my wallet, you know, anything.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. And I also expected that people would be, you know,  
8 injured or dead. So, I went over to this little footbridge  
9 railway overpass that was by the side of the accident site and,  
10 you know, called out to people there to make sure -- there were,  
11 you know, like three people or so standing on that bridge, to make  
12 sure that they were calling 911. And then walked back into the  
13 accident site, over to the wreckage of the business car where, you  
14 know, somebody was trying to get two passengers out of the  
15 wreckage there. And I helped him, you know, kind of pushing the  
16 wreckage away.

17 Q. So, they were underneath the side of the wreck -- of the  
18 cabin, of the wrecked train car?

19 A. You know, no, they were -- it was very strange, really.  
20 I mean, it was -- so, you know where the business car ended up,  
21 right?

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. So if you imagine the end of the wreck of the car,  
24 right, the end that's kind of away from the engine, they were  
25 behind that. That -- so they were outside basically the wreck of

1 the car, on the ground and there was wreckage on top of them. So  
2 it was specifically -- I mean, what was hard to push off was, you  
3 know, I don't know if there were two seats or more connected to,  
4 you know, a piece of -- I don't know, the floor, I suppose.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. That was on top of the one lady there. So, we pushed  
7 that off. You know, the other gentleman was kind of sitting there  
8 holding himself by some cables and we, you know, tried to get him  
9 not to hold the cables and hold something else instead and --

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. And at that point, you know, police and firefighters  
12 started -- the first of them started coming down the tracks, and  
13 gave us instructions on how to help them take these guys out. And  
14 so we did that. And one of the injured was put in an -- in one of  
15 these police, you know, police --

16 Q. Police wagons?

17 A. Yeah, that served as an ambulance. So she was on a  
18 stretcher, you know, she wasn't -- she said she couldn't breathe  
19 and then started fainting, so we put her on -- in there. And the  
20 other gentleman a little bit later was taken into a, like kind of  
21 a proper ambulance.

22 And then, you know, after that, the firefighter  
23 instructed me to stay because I didn't have any shoes. So, you  
24 know, he didn't want me in it. And I just waited by the side with  
25 the other passengers that were starting to come out and, you know,

1 we were checked and, you know, given these triage cards and all of  
2 that.

3 Q. Okay. And then you -- how did you -- you were  
4 transported how to the hospital?

5 A. Yeah, so then, you know, we were told that, you know,  
6 for the people were okay, that we're okay, we could go to the  
7 hospital to get checked out, which I chose to do because, you  
8 know, I was -- my knee didn't feel great and, you know, I  
9 wasn't -- I was quite nauseous and all of that. You know, I  
10 thought it was nothing, but I wanted to get it checked. So  
11 they -- and what they had for us were some more of these police  
12 wagons.

13 And, you know, the last time we spoke, you asked how  
14 many people would have been in there, and I think it might have  
15 been about four on each side, so you know. Then there was a  
16 police officer riding with us in the back and I would think seven,  
17 seven passengers from the train along with him, so. And we were  
18 taken to a hospital. I recall it was a -- and run by Aria, but I  
19 don't know for sure that it was the Frankford one that -- because  
20 I was then later taken to the church in Frankford as a shelter. I  
21 think it was likely the Frankford one.

22 Q. St. Mark's, yeah. St. Mark's was the church you  
23 probably went to after.

24 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. That was very, was very comforting  
25 that they offered that space.

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. I mean, in general, everybody was excellent, you know, I  
3 mean, especially the -- I remember the firefighter, you know, who  
4 came down and instructed us on how to get these two passengers  
5 out. I was very impressed, yeah, so --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Injuries, and what kind of injuries did you say you  
9 sustained?

10 A. Yeah, I mean, for me, you know, I was -- so far, you  
11 know, not that I know of, extremely lucky. I mean, I had some  
12 scratches and my knee was a bit banged up. But, I mean, nothing,  
13 nothing serious at all.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Very fortunate.

16 Q. Yes. And now, when you got on in Washington, D.C., did  
17 you recall hearing any safety announcements by the conductor?

18 A. I don't recall it. You know, I -- yeah. Well,  
19 we talked about it. I don't recall it, but I also can't say for  
20 sure that there wasn't that announcement. I really take the train  
21 pretty often, so I might have just not paid attention. And I do,  
22 you know, after you asked me earlier, I do now and then look at  
23 that card, but -- you know, the safety instruction thing, but --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- yeah, not that time around. But, yeah.



1 Q. Okay. Now, and also was the -- the lighting, was there  
2 any emergency lighting on after the crash?

3 A. So I think not. And, you know, I mean, what I can tell  
4 you for sure is that it was very dark, you know. I mean, that  
5 I -- so, I don't think it was on. I don't remember it. And I  
6 remember it being very dark.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And do you recall, was the luggage racks that are above  
10 you, did any of those fall down?

11 A. I don't know that at all. You know, because, I mean,  
12 this car really got tossed around a lot. I just have no idea what  
13 happened.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. And I couldn't see anything in there. I mean, it  
16 was very dark.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay, sir. I think that about does it. I appreciate  
20 your help. I apologize having to call you back again. Again, we  
21 had a little technical glitch on my recorder here --

22 A. Of course.

23 Q. -- so I appreciate you --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- taking the time to call me back.

1           A.    I -- of course.  No problem at all.  You know, one thing  
2 that occurred to me after we spoke earlier and, you know, it may  
3 just not be the right time to ask that, but is there any -- is  
4 there anything that's known in public about what happened to the  
5 business car, because it just looked absolutely horrendous?

6           Q.    Yeah.  I mean, that was the first car and that was  
7 the most damaged car in the trains of the -- all the cars.  So, I  
8 mean, we have guys -- we're still trying to figure out a lot of  
9 what all happened in the crash --

10          A.    Yeah.

11          Q.    -- so -- but yes, that was the most damaged of all the  
12 six cars and so it must have -- it -- obviously, it hit something  
13 there in the -- around that turn.

14          A.    Yeah.  Yeah, yeah, yeah.  I mean, I was surprised to see  
15 on the pictures that the car I was in apparently also hit one of  
16 the power poles because I didn't --

17          Q.    Okay.

18          A.    -- I didn't feel that at all.  I --

19          Q.    Yeah, that's probably what it hit.  In fact, the car  
20 that you were in, I think the -- one of those poles, I think they  
21 call them a cantilever, was sticking into the side of --

22          A.    Yeah.

23          Q.    -- of the car that you were in.

24          A.    Yeah.  Yeah.  Yeah.

25          Q.    So, okay, sir --

1 A. Right.

2 Q. Well, I thank you very much.

3 A. Yeah, please -- so, of course, absolutely, you know,  
4 anything I can do, please feel free to call.

5 Q. Okay, sir.

6 A. Thank you.

7 Q. Take care. Bye-bye.

8 A. Bye-bye. Thanks. Will do.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 7**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 8**

May 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Telephone Interview of **Passenger 8** :

By Mr. Kaminski

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I N T E R V I E W

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(Phone ringing)

**Passenger 8** : Hello, this is **Passe** .

MR. KAMINSKI: Hello, **Passenger 8** .

**Passenger 8** : Hi, how are you?

MR. KAMINSKI: Good. This is Ron Kaminski with the  
NTSB.

**Passenger 8** : Okay. Yes, you know, thanks for calling  
back.

MR. KAMINSKI: Well, thanks for calling me back. So  
you're -- I'm glad you're willing to give us a statement as to  
what you remember regarding the crash and that. First of all, to  
start things off, I -- is it okay if I tape this so I don't have  
to ask to slow down and I can just ask you to just, you know, keep  
talking and I can just make some notes?

**Passenger 8** : Yeah, sure. That's fine.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So, Mr. -- is -- how do you  
pronounce your last name?

**Passenger 8** : It's [REDACTED] .

MR. KAMINSKI: [REDACTED] ?

**Passenger 8** : Yeah.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And you spell that how? [REDACTED] --

**Passenger 8** : [REDACTED] .

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And your first name?

**Passenger 8** : First name is [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]



1 [REDACTED].

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And your date of birth?

3 **Passenger 8** : [REDACTED].

4 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 8**

5 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

6 Q. Okay. And basically, if I could just -- you know, let's  
7 just start from -- or the point where you got on the train to --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- give me an idea of where you were sitting and then  
10 tell me all the way through the crash up to where if you ended up  
11 at the hospital.

12 A. Sure. Sure. And, you know, feel free to ask me to  
13 elaborate so I -- if I don't.

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. So, I started -- you know, I got to -- I -- it was  
16 boarding around 7:10. I don't recall if it was delayed or not.  
17 I -- (Tone) -- so I sat -- I sat down and waited for the line to  
18 whittle down and kind of came in at the end. So I was probably  
19 one of the last four or five passengers to board.

20 I usually sit -- I take the train every week. I take  
21 this train every week, so I usually sit in the quiet car. So I  
22 went to the quiet car, the second car. My seat was a little bit  
23 further back than halfway back into the quiet car on the right  
24 side. It seemed like the car was about, just about a little over  
25 half full. I took a seat on -- the aisle seat on the right side.

1           And then, you know, a number of things, little things,  
2 could have happened in between that and when the crash happened.  
3 I guess, you know, I recall stopping at Philly. A few people kind  
4 of getting up and leaving and then a few new people sitting down  
5 around me. And I -- and then, you know, I just felt -- you know,  
6 I'm guessing -- they were saying it was around 9:21 when the train  
7 derailed. That sounds kind of right to me, about 15 minutes after  
8 stopping in Philly. The train started -- yeah, at that point, you  
9 know, I just finished doing some work, so my laptop was on the  
10 right of me, backpack on the floor, and I was just kind of sitting  
11 there listening to music, looking forward, and I was awake. And,  
12 you know, the train started tipping over. It was very smooth  
13 initially, just kind of a smooth tip over, almost -- you know,  
14 maybe in the first instant it seemed just kind of like a -- you  
15 know, sometimes that happens on trains. And then it started  
16 tipping over a little bit more, you know, maybe 10, 10 to 20  
17 degrees or so. You know, it's probably not accurate, but that was  
18 kind of my recollection.

19           At that point, you know, some people kind of -- there  
20 was a couple shouts of alarm. Things started shifting over and,  
21 you know, the train was tipping to the right. And then, you know,  
22 the train continued to tip. I started moving and I don't know  
23 why, I just did. My instinct was to start moving towards the  
24 middle of the car, I guess. You know, I didn't want to be crushed  
25 by anything, was what I was thinking. And so I stood up and I was

1 holding onto the seat in front of me, kind of leaning towards the  
2 middle of the car.

3           And then at that point, you know, things -- things  
4 happened very quickly. I do remember kind of -- I kind of lost  
5 sense of my orientation, but I do remember kind of the bags kind  
6 of flying towards me. I got pinned down. I was being pinned down  
7 by the gravity and then, you know, something started crushing my  
8 hand. I was able to get it out while the car was turning. The  
9 lights went out and, you know, the gravity was kind of pinning me,  
10 kind of my head, my neck, my shoulders, on something as it was, as  
11 it was turning. And then, you know, that was kind of a very  
12 violent few seconds, so my recollection's pretty hazy at that  
13 point.

14           Q.    Sure.

15           A.    Then kind of when I came to, you know, I was pinned down  
16 by something and, you know -- well, I guess, I was kind of, you  
17 know, a little bit (indiscernible) story to start.

18           Q.    No, no, go ahead.

19           A.    This is like --

20           Q.    Just tell --

21           A.    -- the full-length story here (indiscernible) --

22           Q.    Sure. Go ahead. Give me the full-length story. No  
23 problem.

24           A.    Yeah, yeah. So then I was pinned down. I looked  
25 around. You know, people -- there were a few people that seemed

1 very badly injured, a few people that were conscious seemed to at  
2 least kind of have their wits with them. So, you know, there was  
3 probably about -- you know, just checked on other people to  
4 squeeze out, you know, within the first couple minutes, you know,  
5 the -- about five or six people in the seats ahead of me were  
6 pinned down. A couple of them were calling for help, so I went to  
7 a couple of them, tried to lift whatever was pinning me down,  
8 because it looked like a lot of people were pinned down by the  
9 same structure, I think. You know, I -- I don't know. I've been  
10 trying to reconstruct it, but I think, you know, we were pinned  
11 down by seats (indiscernible) the ceiling and that the ceiling had  
12 bent in or something. I don't -- I'm not entirely sure --

13 Q. Could it have been the luggage racks that fell down?

14 A. Yeah, you know. I -- I've looked at the picture. We  
15 were upside down essentially. Not like entirely vertically upside  
16 down, but more upside down than we were tipped over.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. So it was difficult to get orientation. But looking  
19 at -- kind of recalling, you know, there was the seats and then  
20 there's the luggage rack ahead and then there's a ceiling. I  
21 don't know how we were pinned down because there seemed to be  
22 quite a bit of space between the seats and the ceiling. So  
23 I don't know, but that, that was -- that seemed to be the case and  
24 everyone was pinned down by this. I couldn't lift it off. There  
25 was one woman in front of me and she was pinned down and, you

1 know, she said she had trouble breathing. She was kind of  
2 panicking. So I was trying to lift it and I, you know, I can  
3 lift -- I can at least budge 3-, 400 pounds, and I wasn't able to  
4 lift it. So I thought, you know, it was just bent and that I was  
5 just unable -- I kind of felt helpless in terms of being able to  
6 move it --

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. -- (indiscernible). So, you know, she -- I think she  
9 was okay. Like I kind of asked -- and so I kind of talked to her,  
10 talked to a few other people that seemed really badly injured.  
11 You know, very soon after that, people were on their phones.  
12 I had sort of lost my phone and everything else, so other people  
13 were on their phones calling 911. You know, they weren't really  
14 able to give our location so that that was a little bit of --  
15 there was a little bit of uncertainty. You know, checking on  
16 other passengers.

17 About 10 minutes went by. I'm actually not sure if  
18 that's accurate. One fireman came up and I think he knocked in  
19 the window. And then we -- he essentially asked, kind of gave an  
20 assessment. A couple people, myself included, had enough of our  
21 wits with us to kind of give an assessment, you know, that there  
22 were people pinned down. A few people critically injured needed  
23 immediate attention.

24 So then the first order of things was to kind of  
25 evacuate anyone whose -- who weren't pinned down. So we did that.

1 And then, you know, there were probably -- I counted on my side,  
2 kind of north of me -- it was difficult to navigate the entire  
3 length of the train, but I was only (indiscernible) maybe like six  
4 or seven seats.

5 Q. Uh-huh.

6 A. I had -- there were about five or six people pinned  
7 down. And on the other side, it seemed there weren't as many.  
8 There were a few, but I didn't hear that count. Someone else was  
9 doing that count. And then, you know, we got the women and  
10 children kind of within our vicinity -- actually it was just  
11 women. There were no children. Just one pregnant woman, she --  
12 we got her out first and then we got out, you know, a few other  
13 women. And then we got one gentleman out, who was not pinned  
14 down, who was badly injured, with a stretcher. And then, then the  
15 men got out. And --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And that was all to the window. And so we all went down  
18 the ladder. We came down --

19 Q. So is that window broken or you said the firemen broke  
20 it out?

21 A. So, I actually -- I don't entirely recall. I think it  
22 was. So, it was initially closed. I don't recall if we --  
23 someone was able to slide it open or if the firemen knocked it in.  
24 I think the firemen knocked it in, but I was with someone else  
25 when that happened. So I don't, I don't entirely recall that.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And that was -- I guess that was it, you know.

3 Q. So when you got out then, did -- what hospital are you  
4 treated at?

5 A. Aria -- I think it was the Aria on Franklin.

6 Q. Okay. In Frankford?

7 A. I kind of -- yeah, yeah, I think so, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And --

9 A. (Indiscernible) --

10 Q. And then were you just treated and released?

11 A. Sorry?

12 Q. Were you treated and released or you stay overnight?

13 A. I was treated and released.

14 Q. Okay. And how did you get to the hospital?

15 A. A police pad wagon.

16 Q. A police what? Paddy wagon?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And do you recall, when you mentioned that it  
19 went dark, was there any -- after it went dark, was there any  
20 emergency lighting on or is it completely pitch black?

21 A. That, that I don't entirely recall. I think there might  
22 have been maybe like a little bit of floor lighting. It was --  
23 yeah, I think there's a little bit of floor lighting, but I'm not,  
24 I'm not entirely sure it was -- what I do recall is it was almost  
25 impossible to see anything until the cell phone lights came on.

1 Q. Okay. Okay, now do you recall when -- you got on in  
2 Washington, D.C., is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And when you got on, you sat down. Do you  
5 recall, was there any kind of a safety announcement regarding now,  
6 you know, they had the brochures, pointing out the brochures in  
7 the seat backs or emergency exits or anything like that?

8 A. Not that I recall.

9 Q. Okay. Now, you said you've traveled that -- on that  
10 trip several times before, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay. Have you heard those announcements in the past?

13 A. Not that I recall.

14 Q. Okay. And what types of injuries did you sustain?

15 A. Relatively minor. I think I might have had a  
16 concussion, you know, my -- I don't know what to call it. The  
17 bone kind of below my thumb, you know, might have received a minor  
18 kind of stress fracture or kind of torn tendon. And, you know, my  
19 neck, I'm getting checked out with a chiropractor. That's it.

20 Q. Okay. And I've got --

21 A. Just --

22 Q. Go ahead.

23 A. Just bumps and bruises other than that.

24 Q. Right. So I've -- do you mind if I ask you your height,  
25 approximate height and weight?



1 A. Yeah. I'm about [REDACTED].

2 Q. Okay. And you lift at 300 pounds, huh?

3 A. Well, I mean, yeah, squat --

4 Q. Wow.

5 A. -- you know, just to -- you can lift a lot of weight  
6 with your legs and your lower back, right?

7 Q. That's right. That's your core. That's what you want  
8 to keep strong.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. So, okay. So you boarded around 7:10. You were one of  
11 the last ones to board. You sat in the quiet car, a little bit  
12 further back than halfway, on -- in the right side aisle seat.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. And I -- that's pretty much it. I just wanted to  
15 get a statement, ask you a couple questions regarding the safety  
16 announcement, and see if the luggage racks came down, the  
17 lighting, things like that. Did you notice, was there anybody  
18 walking around -- they have, you know, those glow sticks that  
19 are part of the safety equipment. Did anybody break those out, do  
20 you know?

21 A. No.

22 Q. No.

23 A. I'm pretty sure they didn't.

24 Q. Okay. Okay. Well, I appreciate you giving me a call  
25 back, and anything else comes up, feel free to give me a call.

1 And also, if -- you know, there may be a chance we have to do a  
2 follow-up with some new questions that come up, but any problem  
3 giving you a call back for that?

4 A. Yeah. No, none at all.

5 Q. Great.

6 A. Feel free to call me back.

7 Q. Great. Okay, sir. You have my -- this is my cell phone  
8 number and then my name again is Ronald Kaminski, so feel free to  
9 give me a call.

10 A. Great.

11 Q. All right. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

12 A. Okay, thanks a lot. Thank you. Bye.

13 Q. Take care.

14 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 8**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 9**

Saturday,  
May 16, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D.  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D., Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Telephone Interview of <b>Passenger 9</b>		
By Dr. Barth		4

I N T E R V I E W

1

MR. BARTH: Can you hear me okay?

2

3

**Passenger 9** : Yes, I can. Fine.

4

DR. BARTH: Great. Okay, let me get your -- what's your name again and how you spell it.

5

6

**Passenger 9** : **Passenger 9** . That's **Passenger 9**

7

**Pass** .

8

DR. BARTH: Okay. What's your date of birth?

9

**Passenger 9** : **Passenger 9** .

10

DR. BARTH: Okay. And can you give me your height and weight?

11

12

**Passenger 9** : **Passenger 9** pounds.

13

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 9**

14

BY DR. BARTH:

15

Q. Okay. Where did you get onto the train?

16

A. At New Carrollton, Maryland

17

Q. I'm sorry. What was the --

18

A. It was New Carrollton. It's right outside of D.C.

19

Q. New Carrollton, Maryland. Okay.

20

A. Yeah, it's called New Carrollton.

21

Q. When you got on the train, do you remember any safety briefings or announcements?

22

23

A. I don't remember any.

24

Q. Okay. And are you aware of any of the safety equipment on the train or little safety cards in the seats, things like

25

1 that?

2 A. Not really.

3 Q. Okay. When did you first notice that something was  
4 going wrong?

5 A. We had just left Philadelphia, and actually probably  
6 half the people got -- a lot of people got off. Thank goodness.  
7 And I think everybody was awake. And I noticed the train track --  
8 the train started -- it was actually turning left, but the cars --  
9 you know, the car that I was watching from the ceiling -- I was  
10 like in the middle of the car, so I could kind of look down. It  
11 was rotating right.

12 Q. Oh, yeah, it --

13 A. The car was banking away from the turn.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. That's when I knew we were in, we were in trouble.

16 Q. In trouble. Okay. Let me ask you before I forget --  
17 can you tell me which car you were in and which seat?

18 A. Okay. I was in the car behind the quiet car, I think  
19 car number 3.

20 Q. Okay. And --

21 A. And I was about in the middle on the right side, up  
22 against the window.

23 Q. So middle of the car, right-hand side, as you're going  
24 forward.

25 A. Yeah.



1 Q. So it was a forward-facing seat?

2 A. Starboard side, yeah. Yes.

3 Q. And next to the window?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And so once you realized something was happening,  
6 what do you remember about your experience with the crash event  
7 itself?

8 A. Okay. I was -- yeah, I was noticing this isn't right  
9 and telling myself that it wasn't going to -- I knew it was going  
10 to roll over and I'm telling myself it's not going to roll over,  
11 it's (indiscernible). But probably about the third time after I  
12 told myself that, I got smacked in the face and got knocked out.

13 Q. So you actually lost -- you lost consciousness?

14 A. Yeah, I lost consciousness. I got smacked in my right-  
15 hand face and got torn up a little bit. And then I was out. I  
16 was out. When I came to, the car was smoky inside, like dusty.  
17 There was a -- I get the whole story, I've been telling it enough.  
18 Yeah, there was --

19 Q. You've got it rehearsed, right?

20 A. Yeah, I have. This woman -- a very agile, in-shape  
21 woman was coming down side -- the car, the car was on its side, in  
22 a 90-degree turn.

23 Q. Yup.

24 A. So it flipped -- and it was sitting on its right side so  
25 my window was down against the ground. But I was pretty vertical.

1 I don't -- you know, I don't remember being on my side. I woke  
2 up, obviously I was probably kind of groggy. This woman came down  
3 and said that we got to, you know, we got to get this under  
4 control; we all got to get out of here; we got to open a window.  
5 And then she actually climbed up -- there was a pile of seats next  
6 to me. She climbed up on the seat and took the weather stripping  
7 -- I saw her. She took the weather stripping out and opened the  
8 window.

9           And I was sitting there with my -- my shoulder got  
10 smashed up pretty bad. I couldn't use my right arm. So people  
11 started coming down, getting out. And I could stand up, my legs  
12 were good. And another -- there was one guy helping out, pushing  
13 people through. I got on the other side and we were pushing  
14 people through. And I believe the people, once they got out, they  
15 were turning around and pulling people out.

16           Q.   How many people would you estimate went out that window?

17           A.   Probably 15. Probably 15 before me and I think there  
18 were some after me.

19           Q.   Okay.

20           A.   Because I didn't think I was going to get out of it.  
21 But the other guy that was helping, he said -- you know, he said,  
22 you know, you ought to go ahead and do it. I said, ah, I don't --  
23 I only got one arm. But he and some other people got below me and  
24 pushed me out. Then more people came out. We were all sitting on  
25 the top. And when I got out there, I don't know if anybody had

1 gotten off of car 3. There were like 15 people sitting up there,  
2 you know. That was my guess.

3 And then it took a few minutes for the firemen -- they  
4 came across the train site. And they had two ladders and they put  
5 the ladders up like in the air and then came up and started  
6 helping people and I crawled down the ladder and left the site.

7 Q. Okay. And where did they -- once you got down from the  
8 ladder, where did they take you?

9 A. Okay, the fireman took me by the hand -- I was probably  
10 still groggy and in shock -- and he walked me across the debris  
11 field. That was kind of a mess. Made sure I didn't fall in any  
12 holes or anything. Took me to this row, there were a whole bunch  
13 of ambulances, and then there was a fireman that gave me a card.  
14 My number was 3. The cards were 1, 2, 3.

15 Q. Yup.

16 A. And then I sat there for, I don't know, 15, 20 minutes,  
17 till -- they had a paddy wagon, an old police wagon that they were  
18 using for ambulances to take us to the nearest hospital.

19 Q. So you were put in a police van?

20 A. Yes, police van.

21 Q. How many people were in the van with you?

22 A. I'd say there was -- my guess is there were seven of us.  
23 Like, there was four on my side and three on the other.

24 Q. Okay. And where did they take you to?

25 A. They take us to a hospital called Aria, A-r-i-a, I

1 believe. And then the hospital -- you know, we went through  
2 several rooms, several triage, got ranking and finally got seen.

3 Q. Did they give you a different tag once you got to the  
4 hospital?

5 A. The hospital, you had to like check in. I remember  
6 going to the desk and checking in, and she gave me an armband  
7 there.

8 Q. Okay. All right. And then did you -- you received  
9 treatment there and --

10 A. Yeah. They took some x-rays, cleaned up my arm. I got  
11 like a bite on the bottom of my elbow, had a big chunk taken out,  
12 something I slammed into.

13 Q. Which elbow?

14 A. My right elbow. All the damage was on my right side.  
15 My right leg got scratched up, but nothing serious. My right arm  
16 was severely scratched up. It was like a chunk was taken out of  
17 it. And then the hospital called me on the way home and said the  
18 radiologist finally looked at my x-rays and I had a broken  
19 clavicle.

20 Q. Do you remember which side? Right side?

21 A. The right side. Yeah, it's all on the right. And the  
22 right side of my face got messed -- smashed up a little bit. I  
23 think that's where it started, because I blacked out. I don't  
24 remember anything. I don't remember any pain till I woke up.

25 Q. Okay, and -- let's see. What other questions did I ask?

1 All the other questions about the -- oh, after the -- when you  
2 came to, do you remember if the lights were on in the car?

3 A. I don't think so.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. It was dark. I don't know if it has emergency lights,  
6 like dim lights. You know, we could see -- we could see enough to  
7 move around, but it was dingy and there was like a smoke or a  
8 mist. I don't know if it was a fine cinder powder -- it might  
9 have been cinders they used to underlay the tracks. But there was  
10 a -- I mean, we were covered with it. All -- everybody in our car  
11 was just covered with it.

12 Q. Yeah. And do you remember seeing anyone use any of the  
13 safety equipment from the train, like any glow sticks or  
14 flashlights or anything like that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. No, I didn't see anybody do that.

18 Q. Were there any -- did you hear any announcements or any  
19 official, like anything over the PA system from the train  
20 employees?

21 A. No. No, dead silence.

22 Q. Okay, all right.

23 A. Okay?

24 Q. Yeah, I think -- do you have any questions that you want  
25 to ask us?

1           A.    No.  Just when will the transportation board determine  
2 what happened?

3           Q.    So our investigation will take quite a long time.  They  
4 have posted a few things on our website.  It's all pretty minimal,  
5 not much more than you see on the news already.

6           A.    Okay.

7           Q.    In about a years' time, we will have a public board  
8 meeting for this investigation.  At that time they'll release a  
9 public docket with a whole bunch of information:  photographs,  
10 reports.

11          A.    Okay.

12          Q.    Nothing will have any, obviously, any personally  
13 recognizable information or anything.  And the board will issue --  
14 with our public meeting will have a report that we'll present what  
15 we have determined as the probable cause of the accident and we'll  
16 issue any recommendations that we've made to try and improve  
17 safety.  And that's -- so it takes about a year, but that's really  
18 when you can see the results of our efforts.

19          A.    Okay.

20          Q.    So -- and that's also public -- the board meeting itself  
21 is public.  You can either come in person or you can webcast it  
22 and watch it.  All that information becomes public, so --

23          A.    Okay.  Well, it sounds like you're being very thorough.  
24 I appreciate that.

25          Q.    Yeah.  Well, hey, thank you so much for talking with us.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. (Indiscernible)

4 Q. Thank you. Bye-bye.

5 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 9**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 16, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Sandra Reiss  
Transcriber



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: **Passenger 10**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator-in-Charge  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of **Passenger 10** :

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

(12:02 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, today's date is May 14th. My name  
4 is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB investigator, here with **Passenger 10**,  
5 who was a passenger on the bus crash, or -- excuse me -- the train  
6 crash, and she's going to give us a description of her trip and  
7 her -- and what occurred in the crash, what she can remember.

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 10**

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9  
10 Q. Go ahead.

11 A. Okay. This is **Passenger 10**, and I got on the train  
12 at Washington Union Station with my husband. It was slightly  
13 delayed by 5, 10 minutes coming out of Washington. Pretty  
14 uneventful trip up until we pulled into Pennsylvania Station --  
15 not Pennsylvania -- you know, Penn --

16 Q. Philadelphia.

17 A. Philadelphia. And then my husband and I were chatting.  
18 Actually, we were listening some music. He was listening to one  
19 headphone and I was listening to another, and then it all happened  
20 really, really quickly. I was in the window seat; he was in the  
21 aisle seat on the right-hand side of the train, going north, and I  
22 looked out the window, I recall, and could see that we were  
23 derailing.

24 I don't think we flipped over entirely. I think we just  
25 skidded and crashed on the right side. I don't really remember

1 those few moments. And then the -- it skidded to a stop, and then  
2 it was really dark and it was immediately pretty smoky. I asked  
3 -- I yelled out to [REDACTED] -- he was, thankfully, still right next  
4 to me. I was on my side. I was trapped by some half of a chair  
5 or something; I can't remember. I knew that my leg hurt and I  
6 needed to get it out because things were kind of -- felt like they  
7 maybe were going to continue moving.

8           So, we confirmed, my husband and I, that we were both  
9 still alive, we were still okay. He was okay. He could  
10 immediately -- kind of back up. We were on the side, so there was  
11 like that -- I guess it's the vent when the train is standing  
12 upright. It's like the vent where the air conditioning --

13           Q. Like, the air vent? The vent --

14           A. Yeah, the air vent. So, he kind of propped himself up  
15 against there.

16           There was a lot of just a few moments of everyone trying  
17 to scream and find an exit, a window, an exit. We didn't know; no  
18 one knew where it was. We were at the front of the car, and about  
19 five, six of us found -- someone found a window and broke it. I  
20 don't actually remember how. It was on top of us at that point.  
21 So, then began the process of trying to get people through that  
22 window.

23           Q. So you and your husband were helping or --

24           A. We were helping. I would say there was -- the train  
25 kind of split into -- that car split in two. There was a group at

1 the other end. I think they must have found a window as well, but  
2 there was also smoke starting to come from that end.

3 So then we were helping. There was a woman next to me.  
4 There was two men. My husband and this other man were really  
5 trying to get kind of the five to six people near us out. There  
6 was a woman next to me, she was a little but stuck too. So we got  
7 her out and propped up on the side of the vent. [REDACTED] got me  
8 propped up on the side of the vent, because I knew it was my hip  
9 at that point; it was my right hip. So I couldn't really move.

10 And then there was just some people panicking, some not.

11 Q. When you mean panicking, what were they -- screaming  
12 and --

13 A. Hurry up; there's a fire coming. Like, move faster,  
14 move faster, move faster. Then there was just -- some of us took  
15 the approach of trying to just stay calm and we're going to get of  
16 here; let's work as a team. So there was a -- there must have  
17 been -- the seats were dangling or something because --

18 Q. So, you did flip over? You --

19 A. We must -- I guess we did, I think.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said the window became  
21 your --

22 **Passenger 10** : The window --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- (indiscernible).

24 **Passenger 10** : Yeah. So, the window was directly above  
25 us, so we must have.

1 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I was in the second -- first coach car, right before the  
4 café.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Yeah, we must have. The window was directly above us.  
7 There was a bunch of weird, like, seats hanging, and that's how we  
8 climbed up it was -- because there was, like, a seat half hanging  
9 and we got on the arm of that chair and then like the base of  
10 another chair. It was kind of like a little maze.

11 There was one guy -- there was -- I can only remember  
12 about four or five people getting out in front of me. Meanwhile,  
13 I think the fire was at the other end, so, yes, people were  
14 starting to get a little panicked of the fire. We didn't know  
15 really, couldn't see the source, but we knew it was getting  
16 smokier.

17 There was at one point a woman in front me. [REDACTED], my  
18 husband and this other guy I don't know or can't remember his name  
19 was trying to help her out and she fell back down, so we had to  
20 get her back up. She was an older woman, so I think she was  
21 nervous. And then we finally propped her up and got her up. I  
22 think a man ended up going in front of her so he could drag her  
23 up.

24 And then, I don't -- a couple other people went, and  
25 then my husband propped me up. He got me up through the window

1 and then I used -- I had to use my arms to actually get out and  
2 throw myself on the side. And then the other two men that were  
3 helping my husband and this guy, which I wish I knew his name, I  
4 think were the last two out of that window.

5 A couple people in front of me must've gotten off the  
6 train somehow because we were then really high and we were in --  
7 there was another, like, abandoned train on the other side. I  
8 don't know. It wasn't part of our train.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. It looked like another old track. And some people  
11 must've gotten down because there were people walking. We  
12 couldn't get down. I was pretty badly injured. And a couple  
13 people --

14 Q. So, you just stayed up on top of the side of the train?

15 A. Yep. We -- [REDACTED] dragged me to the end furthest away  
16 from the fire. And there was a woman there who also was kind of  
17 injured. She thought she had a broken arm, so she didn't get  
18 down. I -- some people did get down. I have no idea how.

19 And then we just kept shouting. At this point there  
20 were responders on the scene, mostly firemen, and they were trying  
21 to get people down. They got some people down via a ladder. [REDACTED]  
22 stayed with me and the other woman who couldn't down with the  
23 ladder. She just kept shouting for -- I needed a backboard, which  
24 did take a while. I think a couple of firemen finally got the  
25 woman with the broken arm down; they kind of just helped her. And



1 they did finally get me down in a backboard.

2           And then it was -- I remember one man sitting in the  
3 middle over there. I don't remember many other people. Then they  
4 had gotten me down on the backboard, but I have no idea how; front  
5 somehow. Strong men.

6           Q. They strapped you in? They strapped you in?

7           A. They strapped me in on a backboard. And then it was  
8 like -- █████ didn't have shoes on and it was really rubbly, so  
9 there was like big trees. It's -- I don't -- it looked like we  
10 were in an abandoned, like, old track zone. So, there were, like,  
11 tracks to come over and lots of big trees and branches, so it was  
12 a pretty rough ride and it was far. I remember being on the  
13 backboard and they took us past all the other wreckage, because I  
14 think it was to my left and I kind of came around.

15           And then we got to -- I don't know where we were,  
16 somewhere there was like ambulances and fire trucks and I got laid  
17 down. Obviously, there was lots of people in front of me and they  
18 were pretty good about communicating what was going on. There  
19 were some local neighbors who were offering up their phones. And  
20 then it took a while because I wasn't -- I could breathe; I wasn't  
21 -- like, I was just in a lot of pain --

22           Q. Sure.

23           A. -- but I wasn't, like, bleeding or my -- you now,  
24 couldn't breathe. So a couple of people -- █████ kept shouting.  
25 That was probably the most frustrating part because --

1 Q. He wanted to get you help? He wanted to get --

2 A. -- it didn't -- it seemed like there was a lot of  
3 firemen, but it didn't seem like there was a lot of medical help.  
4 I know they were there and I think they were trying to triage and  
5 just organize. They did put a big tag on me. They were trying to  
6 tag me or do some tagging system. And then --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a deep breath, **Passe**.

8 **Passenger 10** : Yeah, I know. My --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Push the button and light.

10 **Passenger 10** Yeah, can I turn the lights --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think it is that light for  
12 that.

13 **Passenger 10** : I've got to turn the thing up for a little  
14 while, maybe, if I go down.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I need another one. Here, this  
16 is a little one. (Indiscernible).

17 **Passenger 10** : All right, thank you. I'm fine with it  
18 now. I'm almost done.

19 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

20 Q. So you said you were in the first car behind the café  
21 car?

22 A. No, in front of the café car.

23 Q. Oh, you were in front of the --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Behind -- okay, you were in front. Okay.

1           A.    So, I think -- someone explained it to me.  It's two  
2 business, coach, and then café, or something like that.

3           Q.    Okay.  So you were the one right in front of the café?

4           A.    Yeah, yeah.

5           Q.    Okay.  And you said you were on the right side.

6           A.    Right side.

7           Q.    About how many rows back farther from the front or from  
8 the back were you?

9           A.    I would to say four to five from the front.  So there's  
10 the four-seaters and I was about three to four back from that, on  
11 the right-hand side.  I was at the window; Declan was in the  
12 aisle.

13          Q.    Okay.  Was your car pretty filled up with other people?

14          A.    Yeah, it was pretty filled up.

15          Q.    Okay.

16          A.    It had emptied a little at Philly.  There was a couple  
17 of empty seats.  It wasn't as full as it was when we got to --  
18 when we left from Washington.

19          Q.    Do you recall anybody that was sitting in front of you,  
20 behind you, or across from you?

21          A.    Yeah.  There was a girl, young girl, caddy-corner to us.  
22 ■■■■■ helped her with her bag.  I think she got off at Philly  
23 though actually, because he helped her with the bag and then he  
24 helped her off with the bag, and another young girl got in there.  
25 There was that woman in front of me; she was, I think, older.

1 There was a guy to the left of me; he slept most of the way. And  
2 there was --

3 Q. To the left of your husband?

4 A. To the left of my husband, yeah. And then there was a  
5 woman by herself in front of me -- these are all single occupied  
6 seats, so there was no double occupied -- and then, yeah, a woman  
7 behind me who had been on since D.C., I think. So --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So, then we waited. My husband shouted a lot and  
10 finally got me some medical attention. I ended up taking -- I  
11 didn't really know what was going on, but we ended up taking a  
12 police van. They loaded me on the backboard into the police van  
13 with another man on a backboard, and then it was just pretty  
14 chaotic at that point because they were, like, trying to cram as  
15 many people in as possible, obviously, but then --

16 Q. Did your husband go with you?

17 A. He went with me. I made sure he was with me. So, he  
18 sat on -- I guess there was a bench. I don't even really know. I  
19 was looking up the whole time. And then there was one another guy  
20 not connected that was also on the bench. So, there was four of  
21 us traveling in the back of that car in which --

22 Q. And you came here to Temple then, or did you go --

23 A. We came immediately to Temple; a very rough ride and  
24 painful ride with a lot of screaming, but we made it. And then we  
25 immediately began the triage service and they tagged me again with

1 something. And my husband stayed with me and then -- how far do  
2 you want me to go into the Temple?

3 Q. No, that'll be good.

4 A. That's -- okay.

5 Q. So I just want to go over everything. You got out of  
6 D.C. --

7 A. Yep.

8 Q. -- with your husband. You were listening to music; he  
9 was listing to music.

10 A. We were actually sharing the headphones and dancing.

11 Q. Sharing the headphones, right?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm just the nurse.

13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. You were in the window seat on the right side; he was in  
15 the aisle?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You looked out the window. You saw what you thought was  
18 derailing. Did you feel anything or you just --

19 A. I felt -- the moment before -- you know, when I drive  
20 and -- you know when you drive a car and you're going a little too  
21 fast and you know you're going a little too fast?

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. I got that sensation of, like, for a really split second  
24 I knew we were going too fast and I knew it was going to crash.

25 Q. Was that before you realized you were derailing or --

1           A.    I think it all happened right then.  I think, when I --  
2 as soon as I looked out the window, I knew kind of that this was  
3 all happening.

4           Q.    Okay.

5           A.    But I did feel the speed.  I felt that, like, that  
6 moment of tipping that that wasn't -- that we were going to crash.  
7 I knew we were going to crash.

8           Q.    Now, do you remember, did you remain in that same aisle,  
9 same seat, or were you thrown forward or back?

10          A.    I remained in that same seat because I remember             
11 ended up right next to me, maybe a little back from me.  I  
12 remember seeing my yellow bag, which was under my seat, and then  
13 -- sorry.  And the same people were kind of around me.  Like,  
14 there was a woman in front of me and a woman in back of me.  So, I  
15 don't think I traveled anywhere great.

16          Q.    Okay.  And you said the main injury you have, it's  
17 you're going to have a right hip injury?

18          A.    Fractured hip.  And what else do I have?  Just a  
19 fractured hip.

20                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  You have a fractured pelvic plate  
21 (indiscernible).

22                MR. KAMINSKI:  Okay.

23                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  Two surgeries (indiscernible).

24                BY MR. KAMINSKI:

25          Q.    Okay.  No one knew -- initially, no one knew where the

1 exit was.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Someone found a window and broke it. Was that towards  
4 the front or towards the rear?

5 A. It was a little -- it was almost above me. It was a  
6 little to the right of me, so a little towards the front and  
7 directly up.

8 Q. Okay. And you said you were in the first coach car in  
9 front of the café --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- and there were about four or five rows of seats ahead  
12 of you.

13 A. Mostly single occupants.

14 Q. So -- right, single occupant seats. Okay. And then  
15 when you went -- got out the window, you were up on top. You  
16 couldn't get down due to your injuries and you just waited until  
17 they got a backboard. And when they brought you down. It seemed  
18 like a long walk over to --

19 A. It was really long. It was just --

20 Q. Over limbs and --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- rocky --

23 A. The whole rest of the train, like, was -- when I was on  
24 top of the train -- so, I was on top looking at what I thought was  
25 -- all the vans and stuff were to the left. The whole -- there

1 was a bad car, badly damaged, to the left of me. Like it looked  
2 like it was on -- it had been on fire. And then I think there  
3 were more damaged cars behind it.

4 Q. Okay. Well, luckily, I don't think there was any major  
5 fire.

6 A. Oh, good.

7 Q. That probably would've made things --

8 A. It just looked --

9 Q. Just a lot of smoke and dust and things like that.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Yeah. It didn't seem like there was a lot of medical  
12 help there initially. You had to wait to be transported.

13 A. There was a lot of firemen, but not -- it was a bit  
14 chaotic.

15 Q. Not medical, ambulances and things like that?

16 A. Not a lot of people that -- I mean, I understand that  
17 perhaps they were treating the more serious people, but not a lot  
18 to just, like, be like what's going on.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. Or where are we taking you or -- if there are medical,  
21 there wasn't a lot.

22 Q. Okay. Okay. What's -- oh, what's your date of birth?

23 A. [REDACTED]

24 Q. Okay, you're approximate -- I hate to ask a woman this.  
25 I need to get your --



1 A. That's okay.

2 Q. -- approximate height and weight.

3 A. I've said to the whole hospital at this point; [REDACTED].

4 Q. [REDACTED].

5 A. [REDACTED].

6 Q. [REDACTED].

7 A. I wish [REDACTED]

8 Q. And [REDACTED], wow, you're right on.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right?

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

11 Okay, that concludes the interview here. It's

12 approximately 20 after 12:00 on the 14th.

13 (Whereupon, at 12:20 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 10**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.



Karen M. Galvez  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

\* Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 11**

Thursday,  
May 21, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D.  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D., Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Telephone Interview of **Passenger 11** :

By Dr. Barth  
**Bookmark not defined.**

**Error!**

I N T E R V I E WINTERVIEW OF **Passenger 11**

1  
2  
3 **Passenger 11** : -- I was -- sat in the first seat right  
4 after cantina. So I was on the western side of the seat, if we're  
5 going north. And my -- I was facing southbound. So I was against  
6 basically the wall. So the first table there, sitting by myself  
7 on that bench table.

8 BY MR. BARTH:

9 Q. And so you were, you were facing -- like as the train  
10 was moving down the tracks, you were facing backwards?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you were on -- and you said the, let's see, the west  
13 side. So you were in the -- as the train's moving forward, you're  
14 on the left side of the train?

15 A. (No audible response.)

16 Q. And you were in the first table behind the café -- the  
17 cantina part; is that what you said?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And there was no one seated next to you. Okay.

20 A. I was at a table by myself.

21 Q. Yeah. When did you first notice that something was  
22 wrong?

23 A. I felt the -- like a vibration. It must have been --  
24 I'm assuming it was the brakes being applied. And then it seemed  
25 as if -- it seemed to me that we banked left first and then

1 violently right. So meaning the car, you know, not me personally,  
2 me personally. I feel we banked right and then left. But, I mean  
3 again, I'm backwards, so I'm trying to --

4 Q. Right. That's fine. Yeah.

5 A. You know, the car, if I'm looking at the car, I think  
6 the car -- and then again, I could be wrong, but I felt like it  
7 banked left first and then went violently right.

8 Q. Um-hum. And then did it -- when did you feel it derail?

9 A. Well, I (indiscernible) --

10 Q. Or how did that feel? Did it feel like a tilt or  
11 what -- like, what would -- describe the next section of the  
12 sequence until the train came to rest.

13 A. The next sequence was when we, when we -- when the car  
14 banked hard right, I remember, I mean, trying to grab onto the  
15 table, but I knew it was -- it happened very fast, but I tried to  
16 grab onto the table a little bit, but I remember just being thrown  
17 like a ragdoll to the other side of the car, frankly, kind of head  
18 first into the other wall.

19 Q. Um-hum. Do you know that you hit a wall or a table or a  
20 chair? You're not sure?

21 A. I'm not sure. I do know, you know, I was blacked out  
22 for -- briefly. It could've been just for a couple seconds. But  
23 I came to pretty quickly and just felt my arms and legs to make  
24 sure they were still there. And then I got myself up. And the  
25 guy next to me was unconscious and I had helped him up. I got him

1 up and like slapped his face a little bit and just told him to get  
2 up, get up and get moving.

3 Q. Okay. And what other -- did you see any other people  
4 around? What kind --

5 A. Yeah, there were several other people in the car. I  
6 mean, there was -- people were crying and moaning. And it was  
7 very dark. And it was -- there was a lot of soot in the air. But  
8 I had picked myself up and I saw that the emergency exit was now  
9 practically like the ceiling. So I picked myself up and undid the  
10 window and I started directing people to, you know, to get out.

11 Q. So then, let me -- so I'm going to back up for a second  
12 and -- so you said it was dark in the car. Did you see any lights  
13 at all?

14 A. I knew it was dark and then I, you know, I remember it  
15 was kind of like I could see kind of like the moonlight from -- go  
16 through the window.

17 Q. Um-hum.

18 A. But it was, it was much more dark. I mean, I'm not  
19 saying it was pitch dark, but it was --

20 Q. Right. But there was no light like the little lights on  
21 the aisle on the floor of the train or -- obviously the main cabin  
22 lights were out, but there were no lights or -- on the floor of  
23 the train?

24 A. Yeah, I don't recall seeing any lights in the floor.

25 Q. Um-hum. Okay. And --



1           A.    So, I, you know, I wasn't -- not going to bet my house  
2 on it, of course, but I have to give you my recollection.

3           Q.    Right.  And when you said there was a lot of soot in the  
4 air, can you -- was this -- what was that?  Describe that.  Was it  
5 like from fire or was it dusty or dirt, smoke?  What was the --

6           A.    It felt more like dirt.  And I know for several days  
7 afterwards, you know, I had black stuff coming up my nose.  You  
8 know, I'd blow my nose or my nose was running and it would come  
9 out black.  So --

10          Q.    Um-hum.

11          A.    -- (indiscernible) black, so I'm not sure --

12          Q.    Okay.  But it wasn't like -- you didn't see any fire or  
13 anything like that?

14          A.    No, sir.

15          Q.    Okay.  And then, so then describe, like you said, the  
16 emergency evacuation.  So you were -- you actually saw the -- or  
17 you were the one that pulled the -- how did you open the window?  
18 Let me ask that.

19          A.    I pulled -- again, from my recollection, I pulled the  
20 lever and, you know, went to punch it out, but I believe it came  
21 through.  So I was -- you know, I pulled the lever and the kind of  
22 thing was like you kind of punch it, but I believe it came down,  
23 like it was pretty heavy.

24          Q.    So the glass came down into the cabin?

25          A.    Yes, sir.

1 Q. Um-hum.

2 A. And I'm not sure if that's accurate. It felt like it  
3 didn't make -- I know I -- I thought it was going to go forward  
4 and it didn't. I can remember -- I assumed it would go -- when I  
5 undid the lever, I thought it was going to punch out, and then it  
6 punched -- it came kind of in.

7 Q. Um-hum. And this is -- the angle, what kind of a -- is  
8 this completely -- like describe the angle that it is relative to  
9 you. Like if it's above you --

10 A. Yeah, I would say it's at -- I want to give you like  
11 at 10 o'clock. So it wasn't like straight ahead, but it was  
12 like --

13 Q. Um-hum. That's fine.

14 A. It was -- can I give you like 10 o'clock. I don't know  
15 what the --

16 Q. Yeah, that's perfect. Yeah.

17 A. Yeah. So it was, you know, 10 or 11 o'clock. And you  
18 know, I'm -- I hit it, and that's why, like again I thought I had  
19 to push it out but it actually came down. And it seemed -- you  
20 know, it was kind of heavy. But then, then I was -- I got 7 or 8  
21 passengers out, that were able-bodied to get out.

22 Q. Yeah, did you -- so did -- after you opened the window,  
23 describe the order of people going out. Did you help them out  
24 first? Did you go out first and then help them out?

25 A. I helped them out first, so -- as a way of background,

1 I'm a former Army officer with the 82nd Airborne Division, so --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I had two combat deployments. And so, you know, part of  
4 that training, frankly, kicked in. And I was concerned about the  
5 people getting out. And so about 7 or 8 -- the guy I got up and  
6 then others that were in the southern part of the café car, I  
7 helped get out. So they were able to kind of step on -- I believe  
8 it was a table. You know, one person I had to help, cup my  
9 hand, cupped my hands so that they could put their foot in it.  
10 But the majority of people were able to kind of step right out.  
11 And I believe they were able to do that because there was  
12 something, maybe the table brace or something was still there,  
13 that they were able to, you know, step up and then out of the  
14 train.

15 Q. Yeah, that's helpful. That's very helpful. Thanks.  
16 Yeah, okay. So then -- so you helped them out. And then when  
17 you -- when did you see when -- like how did you get out and what  
18 did you see once you got out?

19 A. Next, I walked back. There was some screams from the  
20 northern part of the café car and, you know, some commotion.

21 Q. Um-hum.

22 A. So I had -- [REDACTED] was the Amtrak woman that worked  
23 at the café car. So she -- I checked on her. She was standing  
24 up. She was shaking. And so she told me that she was okay. So  
25 then -- I call it the cantina, sir, so I apologize. I don't know

1 what it's called. But the cantina part of the café car, I had to  
2 shut the -- the door was flung open. So I pulled it shut so I  
3 could climb over the cantina to go to the northern part of the  
4 café car.

5 Q. Um-hum.

6 A. That is where a few people were badly injured. One  
7 gentleman was there who had a Flyers shirt on. I now know his  
8 name to be [REDACTED]. And he was bleeding. He was  
9 in bad shape and --

10 Q. That was his last name, [REDACTED]?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Good. Okay. Yeah, I think I -- I believe I spoke to  
13 him at the hospital.

14 A. So, you know, my understanding, you know, he was  
15 bleeding from his head from -- it looked like he had blood coming  
16 out of his ear. I don't know if it was, you know, coming from his  
17 brain, but, I mean, you know, blood in the ear, that part. And,  
18 you know, I believe when I first got there, there was a table on  
19 him, which, you know, we had to get off. And I had someone apply  
20 pressure to his wound so he would not bleed out. I was worried  
21 that he had lost a lot of blood.

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. So then I had, you know, I had him sit down and -- and I  
24 told him to calm down because he was -- and again, I -- you know,  
25 he was saying things like we're going to die. And he was pretty

1 badly shaken up. And I was more concerned about getting control  
2 of the situation and I instructed him that he needed to settle  
3 down and that the first responders were going to be here any  
4 second. We're going to get out of here okay. The worst part's  
5 over.

6 Q. Um-hum.

7 A. And he, you know, he adhered to my command, I would say.

8 Q. That's good.

9 A. And was telling him, you know, that --

10 Q. So you were --

11 A. -- you're going to be okay, brother. I just need you to  
12 sit down. We're going to be okay.

13 Q. So you were able to get him calmed down and --

14 A. Yeah, I mean, he was -- yeah, I mean, wasn't -- exactly.  
15 So he had since called me to say -- and again, I'm not -- I am  
16 embarrassed about this, but he called to say afterwards, to thank  
17 me, that I had -- because I had pulled the table from his leg,  
18 lifted a table off his leg where he was pinned down. But  
19 actually, sir, I don't remember doing that.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. But that's what he had told me, but again I don't want  
22 to --

23 Q. Um-hum.

24 A. You know, I vaguely remember, but I don't remember --  
25 you know, there's some things that are -- it's a little blurry.

1 Q. Right. Yeah, that's fine. Yeah, so we just want to try  
2 to get -- you know, we're characterizing what happened. So he was  
3 trapped and somebody -- you or somebody helped --

4 A. Yeah, I remember going over to him.

5 Q. -- to get him unpinned.

6 A. Yeah, but I don't --

7 Q. Um-hum.

8 A. I remember more yelling at him, like, you know,  
9 yelling -- I don't want to say yelling. I know that sounds  
10 insensitive. But yelling that, hey, buddy, you need to calm down.  
11 We're going to be okay. You know, we're doing this and then -- I  
12 think it was after I got the -- we got the -- I got the table off  
13 or we got the table off of him, you know.

14 Q. Right. And then the other -- did you -- what about the  
15 other more badly injured people in the north side of the café car?

16 A. There was a guy who was kind of pinned and, yeah, in the  
17 front part of the table where the other conductor was. There was  
18 an assistant conductor in the very north part. And he was saying  
19 things like I can't, I can't feel my legs. I can't feel my arms.  
20 I can't, you know, I can't feel my arms. I can't feel my legs.  
21 And I said, someone just hold his hand. You know, I was like  
22 you're going to be okay, brother; we're going to get out of here;  
23 the first responders are coming. And it was around that time you  
24 could kind of hear faint sirens from outside.

25 Q. Um-hum.

1           A.    And I said, listen, everybody, there's the sirens.  
2 They're going to be here any second. We're going to be okay. So  
3 it seemed to, it seemed to --

4           Q.    To help him.

5           A.    -- to calm them down and focus on the positives.

6           Q.    Let me ask you, before I forget. So there were -- you  
7 saw -- there were two train employees in this car. One was the  
8 woman who was working the café?

9           A.    Yes, ██████yant was in the café car, and then the other  
10 conductor. I'm not sure what her name is, sir.

11          Q.    And did you hear any radio transmissions or any of the  
12 communications between the Amtrak employees in the aftermath?

13          A.    No, sir. The only radio transmissions that I heard was  
14 when the first responders came.

15          Q.    Um-hum.

16          A.    So I'm -- at that point, I had made my way back toward  
17 the southern part of the café car, meaning the --

18          Q.    Um-hum.

19          A.    I was in the northern part of the café car, but I  
20 went --

21          Q.    That was when you had to get over the -- that was when  
22 you had to get through the --

23          A.    I made it halfway over to the other side to check and  
24 see --

25          Q.    Um-hum.

1           A.    -- how everybody was. The Flyers person was like in the  
2 first or second, you know, table, where the table would be. And  
3 then the guy who was pinned was -- it felt like it was in the  
4 corner. So two tables further. And then I made my way back to  
5 the -- toward ██████████, by the café car. So again, I'm still in  
6 the northern part of the café car, but I made my way back toward  
7 that middle part.

8           Q.    Yep.

9           A.    And that's when I had -- I had felt like I had a little  
10 bit of control of the situation. And I was -- I snapped a quick  
11 photo that I put on Twitter. I'm sorry. First, I texted my wife  
12 and my brother and said, I'm on the Amtrak train. I'm going to be  
13 okay. I'll call when I can. And then I took a very quick picture  
14 of the scene. That picture was on the front page of the *New York*  
15 *Times* the next day. So that was kind of the Tweet. I Tweeted it  
16 out, sorry.

17          Q.    Uh-huh.

18          A.    I took a picture and Tweeted it out.

19          Q.    Could I ask you to e-mail that picture to me, if you  
20 have it?

21          A.    Yes, sir.

22          Q.    It might be useful. I can't remember exactly what --  
23 that one. But if it shows the obstruction -- if it shows the  
24 interior, it might be helpful for me. And if I use it in any  
25 report, I would credit you with it, so --



1           A.    Yes, that's fine, sir.  So -- and that was the -- so I  
2  -- so, yeah, I took a quick picture and Tweeted it out and then  
3  went back just to, you know, to check on everybody.

4           Q.    Um-hum.

5           A.    And, yeah, I was there waiting for the first responders.  
6  Soon after that the first responders came through the window,  
7  through the northern part.

8           Q.    So somebody had opened the, somebody had opened the  
9  emergency exit window in the north part of the train?

10          A.    You know, and it felt to me as if it was -- it felt to  
11  me like it was already open.  Like someone didn't just open it.

12          Q.    Okay.  So you didn't see that window getting opened?

13          A.    No, sir.

14          Q.    Okay.  And then, so the -- and none of this -- the  
15  original question, just to make sure I cover it, was radio  
16  communications between the Amtrak employees?

17          A.    Yes, sir.  I'm not saying they didn't go on the radio.  
18  I just don't remember.  I just don't recall.  That wasn't my -- it  
19  was --

20          Q.    Yeah, that's fine.  That's fine.  Okay.  And so did you  
21  hear any PA announcements or anything from the crew after the  
22  crash?

23          A.    I don't recall, sir.

24          Q.    Okay.

25          A.    And I do want to say that -- I don't, I don't -- I more

1 remember the calls from the -- so when the fire chief poked his  
2 head through the window, and he had to lean himself down. I had  
3 known him. [REDACTED].

4 Q. Um-hum.

5 A. So in Northeast Philadelphia and Bucks County. So the  
6 fire chief -- the first firefighter, who I believe was a chief,  
7 was -- to a window, and he yelled down to me saying, hey,  
8 [REDACTED], hey, **Passen**, how many bodies do we have in here? And  
9 I said we had 11 including myself, but there are 2 urgent  
10 casualties. And I pointed to the guy in the corner, who the  
11 assistant conductor, I believe, was helping. And then the person  
12 on the -- in the Flyers shirt.

13 Q. Um-hum. Oh, that's great. Okay.

14 A. Once they came in -- once the firefighter came in, and I  
15 believe they brought a stretcher in as well with reinforcement.  
16 And there was a highway patrol officer, named [REDACTED],  
17 [REDACTED], who I also knew. He was -- yeah, they were  
18 attending, you know, the most serious wounded and starting to  
19 evacuate the folks who were left behind. Like left behind meaning  
20 like the ones that wouldn't -- weren't able to leave themselves.

21 Q. Right. And so the total number that weren't able to  
22 leave themselves -- so there were 7 or 8 that went out the window  
23 you opened. And then you went to the north side of the car and  
24 there were some people there. Did -- how many people went out?  
25 Or did anybody go out before the first responders arrived and

1 started moving out the ones that couldn't --

2 A. Yeah, so in the southern part, I think we evacuated  
3 everybody, or --

4 Q. Um-hum.

5 A. -- from my understanding. So that was like 6 or 7 or 8.  
6 And then when I was in the northern part of the car, I had a body  
7 count of 11, which was -- included myself, and I believe included  
8 two Amtrak employees, the two ladies: one, the assistant  
9 conductor, one, the café worker. And I know her name was  
10 [REDACTED].

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. But we had two urgent --

13 Q. Right. So how many of the 11 went out on their own  
14 or --

15 A. Oh, I don't think any of those 11, sir. They're the  
16 ones that were --

17 Q. Okay. So all 11 needed assistance --

18 A. Well, yeah.

19 Q. Except for you and Ms. --

20 A. But I would say that two -- I was -- I didn't need  
21 urgent care. I was just more trying to assist. And then -- and  
22 the two Amtrak employees were there --

23 Q. Right.

24 A. -- who were assisting. I would like to point out that  
25 [REDACTED], you know, who was frankly probably thrown around like

1 a pinball behind that cantina part --

2 Q. Um-hum.

3 A. -- she was then getting ice in packages and giving it to  
4 people who were injured. So as --

5 Q. Oh, from the, from the café?

6 A. Yes. So at that point she sprung into action and got  
7 ice and wrapped it in napkins or something and then was giving it  
8 to people to put on their wounds. And she was giving it out as  
9 the first responders were like -- you know, they had to kind of  
10 carry or assist people getting out of the car.

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. And I thought that was pretty heroic. You're not asking  
13 for my opinion, but I'm just giving it to you. I think that  
14 was -- you know, I thought that was pretty --

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. -- pretty special.

17 Q. Yeah. That's good thinking. Okay, so the first  
18 responders are helping people out. Can you describe like just the  
19 order of people going out? You know, who --

20 A. I think it was, it was more of a triage of people that  
21 could get out with assistance from, you know, putting their arms  
22 around a firefighter or a police officer or two of them carrying  
23 them out, is how it went first.

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. And then from my recollection, they had to bring a

1     stretcher or two in to help others.

2           Q.     Okay.

3           A.     From my recollections there.     But --

4           Q.     Yeah.

5           A.     -- at that point, they instructed me that I also needed  
6 to leave, that they had control of the situation.     And, you know,  
7 I complied.     What I don't remember is exactly how I got out of the  
8 car.     I believe -- I don't remember getting out, to be honest with  
9 you, sir, so --

10          Q.     Okay.     And do you remember if you went out before the  
11 assistant conductor and the café --

12          A.     You know, sir, I'm not sure, sir, to be honest with you.

13          Q.     Um-hum.     That's fine.     Okay.     So then, once you got out  
14 of the train, what happened from there?

15          A.     I remember it felt like it was -- I was walking from the  
16 southern -- we walked to the southern part of the train.     And then  
17 went to a side -- they carried us to a side road, you know, to a  
18 side alley/street, which I forget the name of, to an intersection  
19 where there was clearly lights and, you know, like a triage area.

20          Q.     Um-hum.

21          A.     They were directing us to watch the wires that were on  
22 the ground.     There was live wires that they had someone, you  
23 know -- well, first they said watch the live wires.     So I stood  
24 there and told people that were also getting off to watch the live  
25 wire.     And then a firefighter came to ensure people -- to stand

1 there and, you know, to mark it as if it was a dangerous wire, not  
2 to --

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. -- be near it. I then walked about 50 meters off the  
5 track to the side of the road. And then, I had done some  
6 reporting for NBC News because I had a nationally screened  
7 television show for NBC News/MSNBC. So I was over at the side of  
8 the road giving, frankly, a play-by-play to -- on live TV with  
9 Lawrence O'Donnell, who hosts a show called "The Last Word" on  
10 MSNBC. So I gave to Rachel Maddow and to Lawrence O'Donnell  
11 describing what I had seen and what had happened.

12 Q. Okay. And so then did you -- did they -- when you  
13 entered the triage area, did they give you any kind of a tag?

14 A. Sir, I stayed there for over an hour and a half on the  
15 side of the -- by a dumpster. So I saw wave after wave of first  
16 responder go in and stretchers going in. So no, I stood by the --  
17 by a dumpster. I was, you know, I was walking with a limp because  
18 I had some injuries to my right leg, but -- so I was standing  
19 there leaning against the dumpster to put pressure off my right  
20 leg.

21 Q. Okay. And then -- so they didn't tag you, and they  
22 were -- and you were talking to the media. And they -- so at this  
23 point you were -- were you -- did you move out of the triage area,  
24 then, or was the media close?

25 A. Oh, I never made it -- I'm sorry, I never -- the triage

1 area was about 300 to 400 meters away --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- into the street.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So I stood to the -- off the rails, off the fence line,  
6 which was about 50 meters away, through the side of a building,  
7 that had a dumpster behind it. And I was standing by the  
8 dumpster, which is where, kind of the access entry and re-entry  
9 point where -- for the first responders.

10 Q. Okay. So you had a good position to see the first  
11 responders coming in and out, sounds like?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Yeah. Did that -- how did that -- since you were able  
14 to see that, can you describe that? Did it look like it was going  
15 smoothly? Was it -- what was your impressions of just that  
16 process?

17 A. Oh, I was impressed with the fact of the mass of  
18 humanity. I mean, the number of firefighters going in quickly,  
19 you know, in an area where I knew there was live wires going down  
20 -- that were down. But they didn't -- they were professional and  
21 orderly and, you know, obviously moving with a purpose, so I  
22 thought that was pretty impressive. And I articulated that on  
23 national television.

24 Q. Um-hum. Okay. Did they -- so then how did you get off  
25 scene?

1           A.    I had -- did almost a full hour of -- I did Rachel  
2 Maddow, then I did full -- almost a full hour of Lawrence  
3 O'Donnell, and then I did a little bit with Rachel Maddow. And  
4 then my phone was getting ready -- about to die, so I basically  
5 shut my phone off and then walked to the triage area and just -- I  
6 asked a couple paramedics that said -- you know, I guess I looked  
7 like I just came out of a -- you know, off the train or whatever.  
8 And they had said, you know, can -- you know, hey, have you been  
9 seen? Are you okay? And I said I'm okay, I just (indiscernible).  
10 And then I grabbed someone's phone and called my wife, and then  
11 arranged for police officers to take me to my car, which was still  
12 parked at the Trenton Amtrak station.

13           Q.    So you got on the train at the 30th Street station. Or  
14 where'd you get on at?

15           A.    No, sir. I got on the train from Washington, D.C. It  
16 was the 7:10 train. It left about 7:20. And I take it -- I was  
17 taking it to the Trenton train station.

18           Q.    Oh, right. That's what I -- yeah, that makes sense.  
19 Yeah, so your car was at the --

20           A.    I was -- yeah, I was the next stop. You know, I had  
21 someone take me to the -- to my car, and then I drove home from  
22 there.

23           Q.    Okay. And so did you go to the hospital the next day?

24           A.    No, sir.

25           Q.    Okay.



1           A.    So I went home. I actually talked to my wife. I got  
2 about 90 minutes of sleep, and then I went back to work on the  
3 site for [REDACTED], and did interviews on the morning  
4 show and "The Today Show" and others. And then, you know, I kept  
5 saying I was fine. I had not realized at that point that I was  
6 concussed, but, you know, frankly, it was -- it happened so fast,  
7 I didn't think about, you know, the reason why I felt for my arms  
8 and legs is because I was kind of knocked out so I was just waking  
9 up. So, you know, I had blacked out, albeit briefly.

10                 But I went and saw -- I went later in the afternoon. I  
11 was coaching my son's hockey game. I'm a head coach for my  
12 5-year-old son's hockey team. And it was frankly the playoffs.  
13 And when I was behind the bench, I -- there's 10 kids on the team  
14 and I couldn't remember half their names, which was not like me.  
15 So I'd asked my assistant coach what the other names were. This  
16 is the end of the season, so -- I didn't even think anything of  
17 it. I just thought I was having a brain cramp. And then I could  
18 -- lack of sleep, et cetera. But the assistant coach, [REDACTED], said  
19 something to my wife after the game, saying, hey, [REDACTED]'s off;  
20 there's something wrong. He couldn't remember the kids' names and  
21 it's not like him. Are you sure he's okay?

22                 So when I left that game to go back into work to go do  
23 interviews with Ms. Matthews, other people in the network. And  
24 then when I got home that night, my wife said, if you don't go to  
25 see a doctor tomorrow, I'm going to divorce you. So -- and I told

1 her, you know, I was fine. And she brought up about I couldn't  
2 remember the kids' names and -- like you got to get checked out,  
3 [REDACTED], like you know, like -- and I was like [REDACTED], there was,  
4 you know, 8 people killed, like, you know, I'm fine. She said, I  
5 think, you know, you need to get checked out. So I had went and  
6 saw a Dr. [REDACTED], who's a neurosurgeon, who's a family  
7 friend at the Princeton Brain and Spine, and --

8 Q. Is that, is that the -- what hospital was that? Was  
9 that Hahnemann?

10 A. No, sir. I wasn't near there. It was near where I  
11 live, my house in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. So it was -- I  
12 actually went to his office in Princeton. So it's -- so it wasn't  
13 affiliated with the hospitals that, you know, that are -- again,  
14 this is the next -- this is now two days later when I went to  
15 actually see the doctor.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I arranged the next morning -- I arranged two days  
18 later. So I arranged -- started to arrange who I was going to go  
19 see and this -- you know, it's a family friend who's affiliated  
20 with the Philadelphia Eagles football team, who's a concussion  
21 specialist. And, you know, I kind of assumed that I just had  
22 suffered from a concussion, so I went and --

23 Q. So what did he -- did he -- what did he assess your  
24 injuries as? Just as concussion and --

25 A. He said I -- it's that I have -- you know, besides the,

1 you know, the cuts and bruises, et cetera, that he said that it's  
2 clear that I have -- that, one, I had a concussion, that I was  
3 most likely -- that I was knocked out, that -- but the memory loss  
4 is a typical symptom if, you know, you have a traumatic brain  
5 injury. And so, you know, he ordered me to bed rest and not to  
6 drive and not to -- more than -- you know, I had some light  
7 sensitivity. You know, I couldn't really read without getting  
8 headaches. And, you know, it was just -- at that point I feel  
9 like the adrenaline was probably worn off and he was saying it's  
10 going to get worse before it gets better and this is when you  
11 really need to take care of yourself. So I did follow his orders.

12 Q. Yeah, and did your symptoms worsen?

13 A. They did, yeah.

14 Q. But now you're getting -- are you starting to get better  
15 now?

16 A. Yes, I mean, you can attest that. I mean, like I still  
17 have headaches and I have a hard time reading, but --

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. You know, I'm starting to -- you know, I can't exercise.  
20 You know, I (indiscernible) exercise and I haven't exercised in  
21 over a week. Stuff like that, but --

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. You know, in comparison, to the other passengers, I know  
24 how lucky I am, so it's -- I feel funny even complaining about it  
25 or talking about it.

1 Q. Right. Right. Good. Well, let me, before I forget,  
2 there's a couple questions I wanted to ask about -- let's see  
3 here. When you got on the train in D.C., do you remember any  
4 safety announcements or were you aware of the emergency exits,  
5 things like that?

6 A. No, I don't remember.

7 Q. Okay. And do you know if there's safety cards in the  
8 seatback pockets?

9 A. You know, so, you know, I'm on the table seating, so  
10 there wouldn't be seatback pockets where I was sitting.

11 Q. Oh, right. Okay. So that's a good question. I got  
12 to -- I need to figure out. Because there are -- they do have  
13 safety cards in the regular seatback pockets, and I'm not sure in  
14 the café car where they put that stuff. But did you notice -- so  
15 in the car, were you aware of -- have you seen the little labels  
16 for the emergency exits and things? You know, prior to the crash,  
17 were you aware of that stuff or --

18 A. Yeah. I mean, I've driven on Amtrak hundreds of times,  
19 so -- I mean, I remember the windows, the emergency exit. I  
20 remember.

21 Q. Um-hum.

22 A. I mean, that's what I remember as far as emergency exit,  
23 so --

24 Q. Yeah. Okay.

25 A. Do you know how -- I mean, by chance, do you know how we

1 got off the train? Did we go through the window or did we go  
2 through the doors? Or I don't know if you know.

3 Q. If I know what? You're asking me if you were going  
4 through the windows or the door? Is that what you asked?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I'm not sure. Do you remember seeing if the door -- the  
7 end door was -- or not the end door, but the side door on the  
8 north side of the car or the south side of the car were open?

9 A. I don't remember them being open at all. I'm not  
10 certain that -- I think the -- so but, so the answer is no. I  
11 don't remember them being open.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But I --

14 Q. Right. Right. Okay. I mean, we can talk a little bit  
15 about it afterwards, too. But so I want to -- but just to finish  
16 the recorded interview, is there any questions -- is there  
17 anything I forgot to bring up or do you have any questions for me?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay. I'm going to stop --

20 A. I got your name. Can I -- if I can get a copy of the  
21 report, I would like to get that. I'd appreciate it.

22 MR. BARTH: Yeah, let me -- hold on one second here.  
23 Let me figure out how to turn this off. Interview with **Passenger**  
24 **██████████** on May 21, 2015.

25 (Whereupon the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 11**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 21, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Laura Shanley  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

\* Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: **Passenger 12-1** **Passenger 12-2**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINISKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board



<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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By Mr. Kaminski		4
Interview of <b>Passenger 12-2</b> :		
By Mr. Kaminski		10

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is May 14th at Temple  
3 Hospital. My name is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB Investigator with  
4 **Passenger 12-1** and his -- did I pronounce that right,  
5 **Passenger** ?

6 **Passenger 12-1** : Yes.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: And his wife. **Passenger 12-1** last name  
8 is spelled **Passenger 12-1** . His date of birth is **Passenger 12-1** .  
9 **Passenger 12-1** is going to give us a description of the crash and  
10 what he remembers in regarding the crash and getting out.

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 12-1**

11  
12 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

13 Q. Go ahead, sir.

14 A. I was in the wagon with the bar. And suddenly  
15 everything began to --

16 Q. Hold on. Okay. So you started off the trip returning  
17 from D.C. to New York?

18 A. D.C. to New York, and I was in the wagon with the bar  
19 and suddenly the wagon began to --

20 **Passenger 12-2** : To shake.

21 **Passenger 12-1** : To shake and we all immediately knew that  
22 something very, very dangerous was happening. And then the  
23 wagon --

24 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

25 Q. Fell to the side?

1           A.    Fell to the side.  It was panic.  I don't  
2   (indiscernible).  But when the wagon stopped after a time, I must  
3   be half a second time and --

4           **Passenger 12-2** :  Unconscious.

5           **Passenger 12-1** :  Unconscious.

6           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7           Q.    Okay.

8           A.    I suddenly -- came to the consultation that I was still  
9   alive but still in panic for several reasons.  And after, say, 5  
10  minutes --

11          **Passenger 12-2** :  The train stopped, no?  Right?  Fireman.

12          **Passenger 12-1** :  A fireman was on the roof busy with  
13  breaking the --

14          BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15          Q.    The window?

16          A.    -- the window.  Then he came in and break a window on  
17  the other side with his boots, and this we could escape from  
18  the --

19          Q.    The bottom?

20          A.    -- from the bottom.  And we were immediately conducted  
21  by volunteers, I assume, to the place where we got the --

22          Q.    Taken to the hospital?

23          A.    Hmm?

24          Q.    Taken to the hospital?

25          A.    And we were conducted by a car of the police.

1 Q. Okay. You went into like the back of a police car?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Or a truck?

4 **Passenger 12-2** : That was him. He had left his seat. He  
5 was walking to the bar and we were in the last car.

6 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7 Q. Okay. Is that the car you were in, the last car in the  
8 bar area?

9 A. Yeah.

10 **Passenger 12-2** : We were in the last car and he was  
11 walking forward, and so he was in another car when the crash, when  
12 it happened, than we. It was very --

13 **Passenger 12-1** : Very (indiscernible). So we saw each  
14 other again at the moment that we were by the thing, by the --

15 **Passenger 12-2** : I had left 25 minutes later, yeah.

16 **Passenger 12-1** : Uh-huh. That we met the police and the  
17 firemen, and we were immediately conducted to this hospital and  
18 accepted with very great --

19 **Passenger 12-2** : Here you are, yeah. Yeah, yeah, it was  
20 very -- yeah.

21 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

22 Q. Response, they helped you?

23 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

24 **Passenger 12-2** : Yes, very helpful, and a lot of people.  
25 There was a lot of people to help us.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: So you both were in the, what, the last  
2 car?

3 **Passenger 12-2** : Yeah. Started in the last car.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Right. And then he walked --

5 **Passenger 12-2** : He walked --

6 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7 Q. He went in a different car to go to the bar?

8 A. Yeah.

9 **Passenger 12-2** : In a different car, yes, yes.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And then you stayed back there?  
11 You stayed in that car?

12 **Passenger 12-2** : Yes.

13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Now, where were you guys seated in that last car? Were  
15 you on the left side or the right side?

16 A. The right side.

17 **Passenger 12-2** : The right side.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: On the right side. And how far back?  
19 Were you in the middle, towards the front, towards the rear?

20 **Passenger 12-2** : I think in the middle, huh? The middle,  
21 yes.

22 **Passenger 12-2** : Approximately.

23 **Passenger 12-2** : Approximately in the middle.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, okay. And who was seated next to  
25 the window?

1           **Passenger 12-2** : I was seated next to the window and you  
2 were seated in the middle?

3           **Passenger 12-1** : Right, second place to the window.

4           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5           Q.   Okay, okay. So you were in the aisle and you were in  
6 the window, okay. So then a fireman came because the bus was  
7 tilted on its side, the bus -- excuse me, the train was tilted on  
8 its side. The fireman came in from the top; broke the window and  
9 then he broke a window that was on the right side --

10          A.   Yes, yes.

11          Q.   -- with his feet, with his foot he kicked it out.

12          A.   With his boots.

13          Q.   Boots. And then you guys were able to, or you were able  
14 to get out --

15          A.   Escape, yes. It was an opening like this --

16          Q.   Right.

17          A.   -- and the length of a train window.

18          Q.   Okay, okay. And what types of injuries -- I see you  
19 have some cuts on your hands, what types of injuries?

20          A.   Cuts, but --

21          **Passenger 12-2** : Everywhere, everywhere.

22          **Passenger 12-1** : I have six (indiscernible).

23          MR. KAMINSKI: Broken ribs?

24          **Passenger 12-2** : Broken ribs. Five broken ribs and --

25          MR. KAMINSKI: Five?

1           ██████████: Yeah, five it was. Five.

2           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

3           Q. On your left side?

4           A. On my left side, yes.

5           Q. Okay.

6           **Passenger 12-2**: And little fractures on his spinal,  
7 little fractures, and he's (indiscernible) little fractures from  
8 his spinal.

9           MR. KAMINSKI: The facets?

10          **Passenger 12-2**: On the sides. On the side. So --

11          MR. KAMINSKI: Yes, yes, yes, yes. How many of those,  
12 do you know?

13          **Passenger 12-2**: Several, several.

14          ██████████: Several.

15          **Passenger 12-2**: I don't know how many. Maybe the same -  
16 -

17          MR. KAMINSKI: Was that upper back, lower back, middle  
18 back? Where did those --

19          **Passenger 12-2**: Down, down.

20          MR. KAMINSKI: Lower back? The facets --

21          **Passenger 12-2**: Lower back, lower back. Maybe the same  
22 then the ribs. I don't know. I suppose that it were the same  
23 that the ribs, yeah?

24          MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

25          **Passenger 12-1**: And his (indiscernible) -- here it was a

1 boot [sic], you see?

2 MR. KAMINSKI: A big bump?

3 **Passenger 12-2**: A big bump.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

5 **Passenger 12-2**: Black, all black. There was black stuff  
6 everywhere and his ears were black of some stuff.

7 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

8 Q. Black and blue, yeah. Yeah.

9 A. It was (indiscernible) of thin, thin, thin, black  
10 boulder in the wagon.

11 **Passenger 12-2**: In Dutch we say root, but I don't know  
12 what it --

13 **Passenger 12-1**: What is -- what you find in a chimney,  
14 the black --

15 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

16 Q. Soot.

17 A. Soot, yeah.

18 **Passenger 12-2**: Yeah, yeah, that was it, yeah, yeah.  
19 Everywhere in his nose, his ears, his eyes, everywhere was it  
20 black.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, okay, okay.

22 **Passenger 12-2**: Terrible.

23 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 12-2**

24 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

25 Q. Now, **Passenger 12-2** what is your first name?



1 A. [REDACTED].

2 Q. [REDACTED]. And what is your date of birth, birthday?

3 A. [REDACTED].

4 Q. Okay. My birthday is [REDACTED].

5 A. [REDACTED].

6 Q. Okay. And so is there anything you can tell me  
7 regarding --

8 A. Yes, yes. It began to shake and the seats of the other  
9 side came --

10 Q. Falling down?

11 A. Falling down.

12 Q. Did they come apart and fall on you?

13 A. Yeah. But I was worrying about my husband.

14 Q. And I'm sure he was worried about you.

15 A. He wasn't there and I was thinking he's not seated  
16 there. So I tried to go to the --

17 Q. The car in front where he was?

18 A. Where he was before we left, and at the end of the last  
19 car there was a broken window and there was a Dutch man --

20 Q. So nobody broke it out? It already was -- after the  
21 crash --

22 A. It was already.

23 Q. -- it was broken?

24 A. It was already broken. I didn't see who had done this.

25 And there was a Dutch-speaking man who said you have to --

1 Q. Get out?

2 A. -- to get out of here. And it was really rather high  
3 and we doubted, and then suddenly they shout that the door was  
4 open of the last --

5 Q. So that's how you went out?

6 A. And then we turned and we -- I had lost my glasses, but  
7 I found it.

8 Q. Wow.

9 A. I found some shoes from this side. I don't know -- and  
10 I found my shoes too. But I thought it's important to have your  
11 shoes, huh?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. To climb through --

14 Q. Well, to walk, sure.

15 A. Yeah, for my back too, yeah. But there was a man in our  
16 neighborhood that was very badly --

17 Q. He got a bad cut?

18 A. Bad cut on his head and it was all blood --

19 Q. Was he on your car, the car you were in?

20 A. Yes, nearby us. I was full of blood of that guy.

21 Q. Oh.

22 A. That picture, the man was all --

23 Q. Yeah, yeah.

24 A. And my friend said there was a woman who -- I didn't see  
25 it, but there was a woman that was swiped -- no, that

1 (indiscernible) --

2 Q. Just went flying?

3 A. Flying, flying in the luggage --

4 Q. Oh, in the luggage rack? Yes. Okay.

5 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But that I didn't see, but she was in  
6 the middle and she saw that and -- yeah.

7 **Passenger 12-1** : That was the end of --

8 **Passenger 12-2** : And then we left and then it was really  
9 high and there were two men to help us out of the car. Everybody  
10 was helping everybody.

11 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12 Q. Good.

13 A. Yes. I know --

14 **Passenger 12-1** : Yeah, (indiscernible) panic.

15 **Passenger 12-2** : Yeah, just -- and then -

16 BY MR. KAMINKSI:

17 Q. And so where did you guys end up meeting then? At the  
18 hospital or at the police car?

19 **Passenger 12-1** : At the place where the police cars and  
20 ambulances --

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Staging? They call it staging.

22 **Passenger 12-1** : Staging for the people to conduct to --

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Triage. Everybody checking on injuries,  
24 triage, okay.

25 **Passenger 12-1** : I don't see that. In my case it was

1 rapid, rapid, rapid.

2 **Passenger 12-2** : Yeah, they had to give him a collar.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah, a neck brace.

4 **Passenger 12-2** : And he was very bad looking.

5 BY MS. KAMINSKI:

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. And I -- and he remained --

8 Q. What kind of injuries did you have? Injuries, what kind  
9 of cuts --

10 A. Yes. A cut was --

11 Q. A cut?

12 A. A cut, a cut that was so long. And it was --

13 Q. You mean length. Did you have stitches or staples?

14 A. They sticked it there. And I was full of red and so I  
15 had the occasion to go with him.

16 Q. Oh, because they thought you -- it wasn't your blood; it  
17 was the man's blood?

18 A. It wasn't me. It was the other full of blood. And I am  
19 -- in the night I could take a shower in the hospital here and  
20 they give me these clothes to change. So --

21 Q. Any other injuries other than the cut on your hand?  
22 That's it?

23 A. Very little and all blue --

24 Q. Lots of bumps and bruises?

25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1 Q. Contusions, black and blue marks?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. All over?

4 A. All over.

5 Q. But no broken bones, no sprains?

6 A. No, no, nothing, nothing.

7 Q. Very good.

8 A. At first they said to us to go on the right side of the  
9 rails. It was soft --

10 Q. Dirt?

11 A. Yeah. And then suddenly there were firemen on dirt  
12 side, they were all -- I've seen it on TV.

13 Q. The firemen were helping everybody or they were --

14 A. Yes, yes, yes.

15 **Passenger 12-1** : Yes, but they were making a hole in  
16 some --

17 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

18 Q. Oh, they were cutting a hole in some of the other cabins  
19 or other trains? Other --

20 A. No, no. On the rails there were --

21 Q. On the rail?

22 A. -- cables and they were --

23 Q. Oh, the electrical cables and all that?

24 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And it makes fire, it makes --

25 Q. Yeah, sparks.

1 A. -- much fire. Yeah, sparks, yeah.

2 Q. Yeah, the electrical sparks of it, sure.

3 A. And then suddenly they said we had to move on, over on  
4 the left --

5 Q. Move to the left. Stepped to the right, then made you  
6 go on the left side.

7 A. Yeah, on the left side. And then we were asking  
8 everybody to -- my husband and then they say stay here. All the  
9 people came from this side. Not -- I was wondering if he perhaps  
10 was escaped on the other side, then, because he came not so  
11 directly. But then we asked somebody, he was there.

12 Q. Well, you had just those couple scratches, those cuts;  
13 that's pretty amazing you --

14 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

15 Q. Very lucky.

16 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

17 **Passenger 12-1**: If it wasn't for her, I was -- a person  
18 seemingly had broken his neck, seemingly, yeah.

19 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

20 Q. Yeah. He couldn't move?

21 A. Yeah. The guy that was, that sat --

22 Q. The guy with the big cut, the big cut on his head?

23 A. Yeah. Maybe it was not so, I don't know. But there is  
24 always much blood than when you are (indiscernible) --

25 Q. Yeah, when you get a head cut like that, there's always

1 a lot of blood, yes, yes.

2 A. Yeah, it is always blood -- yeah, yeah.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. That concludes our interview here  
4 at 2:40.

5 (Whereupon, at 2:40 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

6

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview **Passenger** and [REDACTED]

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, PA

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Michelle Smiroldo  
Transcriber



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 13**

Saturday,  
May 16, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D.  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D., Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Telephone Interview of **Passenger 13** :

By Dr. Barth

4

I N T E R V I E W

1

DR. BARTH: All right. Can you hear me okay?

2

3

**Passenger 13** : Yes.

4

DR. BARTH: Great. Let me turn this up. Okay, let me get your -- let me get -- make sure I got your name correct.

5

6

You're **Passenger 13** [sic]; is that right?

7

**Passenger 13** : That's right.

8

DR. BARTH: **Passenger 13** ?

9

**Passenger 13** : [REDACTED]

10

DR. BARTH: [REDACTED] okay.

11

[REDACTED] : Yes.

12

DR. BARTH: How do you spell -- how do you pronounce it then?

13

14

**Passenger 13** : You can say -- don't worry about it.

15

DR. BARTH: Okay.

16

**Passenger 13** : It's okay.

17

DR. BARTH: All right. Can you give me your date of birth, please?

18

19

**Passenger 13** : [REDACTED].

20

DR. BARTH: Okay.

21

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 13**

22

BY DR. BARTH:

23

Q. Do you recall where you were seated on the train?

24

A. Yes. So, I was in the second-to-last car, towards the front, near -- on the left side, in the aisle seat, near one of

25

1 the emergency exits. Pretty close, like one seat behind -- in  
2 front.

3 Q. So the second-to-last car towards the front, on the left  
4 side as the train's traveling forward, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you were -- you were facing forward, right?

7 A. Yes. And I was in the aisle.

8 Q. In the aisle seat, great. Was anybody sitting next to  
9 you?

10 A. Yeah, someone was sitting next to me, but I didn't  
11 really pay attention to them because I coincidentally ran into two  
12 friends and that's why I sat there. Two friends were sitting  
13 directly across from me.

14 Q. Oh, okay. Do you know what -- do you mind giving me  
15 their names?

16 A. Yeah, one of them is [REDACTED]. I have to look  
17 at the spelling of her last name. Then the other one is [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] (ph.).

19 Q. Yeah, because we're going to -- I just figured that we  
20 might -- you know, I mean, that way -- because we're trying to  
21 reach out. There's a whole bunch of people on this train, so I  
22 don't know for sure that we'll be able to reach them, but if we  
23 do, we'll know who they are.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So it was [REDACTED] -- it started -- her last name started

1 with a B?

2 A. It's -- her first name is [REDACTED]

3 Q. Oh, [REDACTED]. Okay.

4 A. Yeah. And her last name is with an [REDACTED].

5 Q. Okay. [REDACTED] (ph.) or something like that.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And then [REDACTED] -- what was his last --

8 A. [REDACTED], and then [REDACTED], like [REDACTED]. Something  
9 like that.

10 Q. Okay, great. Okay. Where did you get on the train?

11 A. In Philadelphia.

12 Q. Okay. And when you got on, do you guys remember -- do  
13 you remember any announcements or safety briefings, anything like  
14 that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. But I travel for work all the time and that never  
18 happens.

19 Q. That never happens? Okay.

20 A. No.

21 Q. And are you familiar with any of the safety equipment or  
22 little placards and stuff on the train car?

23 A. No, I have no idea what that is.

24 Q. Okay. And do you know that there's little safety cards  
25 in the seatback pockets?

1 A. I have never seen those before.

2 Q. Okay. No problem. And -- hold on a second. When did  
3 you first realize that something was wrong?

4 A. It was really all of a sudden. My friends and I were  
5 just having a normal conversation and then all of a sudden the  
6 train shook abruptly. So there was like one shake and then there  
7 was one major shake that threw me to the other side of the train.  
8 So obviously, when I flew out of my seat, I knew something was --  
9 not right.

10 Q. Uh-huh. And what do you remember about -- you know,  
11 during the crash event? What -- like, if you -- do you know, you  
12 know, like how you got tossed into other seats or if you hit your  
13 head or anything like that? What do you remember?

14 Q. So, I don't even know what happened while I was flying  
15 through the air. All I know is from the bruises on my leg and the  
16 concussion that I had that I did hit the left -- the left side of  
17 my body hit something. And I know I landed underneath a seat, way  
18 ahead in the front of the car. So I don't know if -- I don't know  
19 what happened when I was flying through the air. I probably --

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. -- closed my eyes.

22 Q. Right. That's helpful though. That's what I'm looking  
23 for --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- like where you ended up farther forward in the car

1 and under -- you know, in the underside of a seat. That's  
2 helpful.

3 A. Yeah. So I was like in between someone's legs, really.

4 Q. Okay. And you said you had a concussion, and what other  
5 injuries did you sustain?

6 A. I have a sprained ankle and I have some pretty big  
7 bruises on my thigh and all over the left side of my leg.

8 Q. Okay. So left ankle, left thigh, left -- basically,  
9 left side banged up?

10 A. Well, yeah. Like my whole left side, like my face was  
11 hurting, but there's no -- there was no, like visibility -- there  
12 was no like bruise or anything, it just hurt.

13 Q. Um-hum. Okay. When you -- so when you flew across and  
14 you landed, did you notice that the -- were the seats and things  
15 displaced and broken, did you recall, and other things? Or  
16 were -- or you were just -- did you notice, you know, like that  
17 the actual seats had come loose from the ground or other stuff had  
18 been flying around?

19 A. Oh, yeah. The seat I was in totally came loose. There  
20 was like seats flying around, luggage flying around. It was  
21 absurd. And that was not even in the -- you know, that was our  
22 car that somehow happened to still stay on the track.

23 Q. Right. Okay. And then -- so you're there under the  
24 seat. How did people start getting off the train? Or what  
25 happened from there?



1           A.    So from there, like I realized I was in a crash, so I  
2 like curled up and -- I just remembered the safety things that  
3 I've heard on the plane, so I just immediately covered my head and  
4 curled up in a little ball.

5           Q.    Um-hum.

6           A.    And then all of a sudden, it's -- the like shaking  
7 finally stopped. And once it stopped, people just totally lost  
8 it. Like, there was -- it was just chaos. Everyone was screaming  
9 at the top of their heads. People were like crying. There was  
10 like blood everywhere. You know, no one -- there was -- it was  
11 total chaos. Like, no one knew what to do. People were looking  
12 for their stuff. Other people were yelling, like, don't touch  
13 your things -- like if you touch your things, I'm going to take  
14 you away. Like, it was just a mess. So one guy, he's like a  
15 really big guy, he opened the first emergency window. So there  
16 was actually only two emergency windows, which is ridiculous. So,  
17 he opened the first one, but it was -- you know, the train, the  
18 car tilted a bit, so it was on the higher side, which is where I  
19 was sitting, on the left side.

20          Q.    Okay.

21          A.    And it was like a very big fall. It was like 10-foot  
22 fall. So, of course, no one wanted to jump there because you  
23 would get hurt. I mean, it's better than, you know, if -- in case  
24 the train would like blow up or something, it's better to jump off  
25 that. But no one jumped on it -- jumped off of it immediately

1 because at the time there seemed to be no immediate danger.

2 Q. Yeah. So you were -- so what you're saying is, you --  
3 you went out that window and now you're on top of the train.  
4 So --

5 A. No, no, no, no. We never went out the window. The  
6 window was just open.

7 Q. Okay. So, it --

8 A. Like I stuck my head out the window to see how high the  
9 jump was, but it was too high.

10 Q. And did you see him actually -- like, he pulled the  
11 little red handles to separate the -- is that how he opened the  
12 window? Did you see him open it?

13 A. Yeah. Yeah, I saw him open it.

14 Q. Okay. And then -- oh, yeah, I -- sorry about -- I said  
15 top of the train because I was thinking of some of the cars that  
16 rolled over. But yours didn't, so --

17 A. (Indiscernible).

18 Q. So you guys are -- you're looking out the window, trying  
19 to decide how you're going to get out this window and drop down.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And so then who --

22 A. Then we --

23 Q. Go ahead.

24 A. Then we realized that that window's too high. There  
25 must be an emergency exit on the other side. So then someone

1 else -- because that emergency exit was further down from me. I  
2 can't really see. Someone else opened the second emergency exit,  
3 which was on the right side, which was closer to the ground.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And after -- I don't know. It felt like a very long  
6 time. Like it was definitely at least like 15 minutes. I don't  
7 know. Because in the meantime, like, I called my dad to tell him  
8 I was in an accident. I like texted my friends. So a lot of time  
9 had passed, after which people started opening the other emergency  
10 exit.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And people were scrambling for their things. It was  
13 like -- people were -- everyone was calling everyone. It was  
14 just -- like, no one knew what to do. There was -- no one was  
15 taking charge or direction or anything like that.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. And finally, finally people are going out of the  
18 emergency exit, but no one -- it's so -- it's moving really slowly  
19 because -- I don't know. They're like taking a really long time  
20 to jump out. After they're jumping out, they're not moving out of  
21 the way so other people can jump out. It took a very long time to  
22 get out of that train. But soon, soon after, the -- you know, I  
23 don't know who they are, but the first responders or whatever  
24 they're called (indiscernible), they came and they opened the door  
25 to the last car.

1 Q. Okay. And before I forget asking, so the windows you're  
2 talking about on the left and right side that were open, these are  
3 the ones that are further forward in the car or further aft? Do  
4 you remember where, like, on the length-wise of the car, where  
5 those windows were at?

6 A. Yeah. So the one that was closest to me was, I don't  
7 know, like fives seats down on the left side. And --

8 Q. Five seats from the front of the car, you're saying?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. From the front of the car going forward to New York  
12 City.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And the other one was on the right side of the car like,  
15 I don't know, maybe 10 -- like in the middle.

16 Q. Okay. All right. And so then the fire responders  
17 opened one of the doors -- on the left or right side?

18 A. Well, one other thing I forgot to say is that -- you  
19 know, there's two doors to get into the car, one in the front and  
20 one in the back.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. The door in the front was totally stuck. We couldn't  
23 open it.

24 Q. Okay. And so people were trying to open it, but  
25 couldn't get it open?

1           A.    Yeah.  Yeah, people tried to open it, but it was totally  
2 stuck.  So we couldn't open that door.

3           Q.    Okay.

4           A.    And then, I don't know how much time had passed, but,  
5 you know, I can check my phone and figure out when I sent like my  
6 messages.  But after maybe, I don't know, 10 to 15 minutes --  
7 sorry.  One second.

8           Q.    Sure.  No problem.  Take your time.

9                    (Phone call.)

10           **Passenger 13** :  Sorry.  That was my mom.

11           BY DR. BARTH:

12           Q.    That's okay.

13           A.    So after that, after like a couple of minutes, the first  
14 responders come in and they open the last car.  And so we were  
15 going through the last car.

16           Q.    So did they -- you mean they -- how did they come in?  
17 Like, they pried -- do they open one of the side, the rear side  
18 door, or how did they come in?

19           A.    I didn't see that.

20           Q.    Okay.

21           A.    Because we were in the second-to-last car and they  
22 opened the last car --

23           Q.    So meaning like --

24           A.    -- all the way in the back.  So --

25           Q.    Yeah, so the end door, like --

1 A. Yeah, that one.

2 Q. Not on the side of the train? Okay.

3 A. No, no. Yeah, that's what they opened.

4 Q. Okay. And while this is all happening, do you remember,  
5 were there lights on in the car?

6 A. No. The lights went off as soon as the -- it started  
7 like as soon as I was thrown out of my seat, the lights were -- it  
8 was pitch black.

9 Q. Uh-huh. And do you remember any other -- any other  
10 emergency lighting or anybody using glow sticks or anything like  
11 that?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Cell phone flashlight.

15 Q. Okay. All right. And so the responders came in from  
16 the end and then where did -- how did they help you guys out?

17 A. They were -- I mean, I thought they were -- they did a  
18 great job. They, you know, just helped us jump out of the thing.  
19 And then people came in to -- there were people who were like  
20 totally paralyzed and didn't want to leave and people who were  
21 (indiscernible). So they came in and got those people out of  
22 there.

23 Q. And so the door that they're -- they're taking you out a  
24 door; is that what you said?

25 A. Yeah. Yeah. They're taking us out of the door.

1 Q. On which side of the train?

2 A. All the way at the end.

3 Q. Oh, okay. So they walked you through the last car of  
4 the train and out?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that last car, was it the door totally out on the  
7 end or one of the side doors on the end of the car?

8 A. It was the one all the way on the end. So we walked all  
9 the way to the end of the train.

10 Q. Okay. All right. And so they got you out of the train.  
11 What happened after that?

12 A. So they just told us to move a little bit further away  
13 from the train. And just immediately after, the firefighters come  
14 in to cut through the fence with, I don't know, whatever machine  
15 they use to like just cut through a fence.

16 Q. Um-hum.

17 A. And they get into the train. And once they're all in,  
18 we go through that same path, through the fence. And it leads us  
19 into a road where there's ambulances waiting outside.

20 Q. Okay. And how did -- and did you get, did you -- at  
21 some point, did they -- how did they assess your condition? Did  
22 they give you a tag? And how did you get to the hospital, or did  
23 you go to the hospital?

24 A. So they -- I did go to the hospital, but I went on my  
25 own.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So they were like -- you know, there's a lot of people  
3 there. There's people with like metal sticking out of their  
4 heads. And I was definitely not a top priority person. I felt  
5 totally fine at the time. Then like a couple hours later I  
6 realized that my ankle was swollen --

7 Q. Right.

8 A. -- and that I'm a little bit dizzy. So I didn't think  
9 that anything happened to me, so I went to the hospital on my own.

10 Q. And did they give you any kind of a tag or a number or  
11 anything while you were on scene?

12 A. No, but I left the scene. Like I didn't stay to wait  
13 around.

14 Q. Okay. So did you just walk -- how did you get off the  
15 scene, then?

16 A. I just walked.

17 Q. Okay. And then so once you got off the scene and left,  
18 then when did you go to the hospital?

19 A. Like, a couple hours later. So my parents came from New  
20 Jersey to come pick me up.

21 Q. Oh, so it was that -- it was that same night that you  
22 went to the hospital?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. Which hospital did you go to?

25 A. The hospital, the University of Pennsylvania.



1 Q. Oh, okay. Okay. And did -- what did they -- and then  
2 they just treated you for the basic stuff?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. All right. I'm trying to think if there's other  
5 questions that I haven't -- that I forgot to ask you about. Is  
6 there any -- do you have any questions for us or anything,  
7 anything --

8 A. I just wanted to say like, since you guys are in the  
9 safety people, you know, I never realized like maybe there should  
10 be seatbelts on the train. That would have been useful.

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. Making sure that the doors are -- they open in case of  
13 an emergency. Like not having just two emergency exits. That's  
14 really not enough. I guess --

15 Q. Right.

16 A. -- screwing in the seats properly, but that seems pretty  
17 obvious. But the seatbelt thing really surprised me after the  
18 accident.

19 Q. Yeah. Did you see anything with the luggage racks  
20 also -- like did you notice anything about the luggage racks or  
21 the luggage inside the car?

22 A. Yeah, luggage was flying all over the place.

23 Q. Okay. Okay. I think that's all the questions I have.  
24 Thanks a lot for speaking with us and I hope your recovery goes  
25 well.

1 A. Thank you.

2 Q. All right. Thanks a lot.

3 A. Okay. Thanks.

4 Q. Oh, let me ask you one more question. So did you --

5 A. Sure.

6 Q. Just to confirm -- this is a separate issue, but did --  
7 has Amtrak been in contact with you and have you got the  
8 information you need to get any belongings or, you know, to get  
9 any assistance that you need from Amtrak?

10 A. No. I just got like a general email from them.

11 Q. Okay. So, you know, if you've lost anything on the  
12 train or -- I encourage you to, you know, there's -- you know, I  
13 don't think I have it with me right in front of me. But  
14 there's -- the Amtrak website and things have, you know, they have  
15 contact information, and they will assign a --

16 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

17

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 13**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 16, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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\*

AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

\*  
\* Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010  
\*  
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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: **Passenger 14-1** and  
**Passenger 14-2**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
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By Mr. Kaminski		9

I N T E R V I E W

(1:56 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is May 14th. I'm here at  
4 Temple Hospital with **Passenger 14-1** and **Passenger 14-2**. And  
5 **Passenger** is going to give me a description of what occurred in  
6 the crash, and then we will follow up with **Passenger** and his  
7 description. **Passenger 14-1** last name is **Passenger 14-1** --

8 [REDACTED].

9 MR. KAMINSKI: [REDACTED] -- excuse me. And [REDACTED] last  
10 name is spelled [REDACTED].

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 14-1**

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

11  
12  
13 Q. Now, Mr. -- let me get this in a position. Maybe -- oh,  
14 okay, that'll be good. If you could just give me a general --  
15 first of all, what's your date of birth?

16 A. [REDACTED].

17 Q. [REDACTED].

18 **Passenger**: What was (indiscernible)?

19 **Passenger**: That's -- okay.

BY MR. KAMINSKI:

20  
21 Q. Okay. And if you could just give me a description of  
22 what you remember about the crash from starting out to getting  
23 here to the hospital?

24 A. Okay. We start at station, 30th Street, at I think  
25 about the same time, 9:10, 9:15, if I'm not mistaken. That's the

1 reason, because we had to -- next day, we had to visit the same  
2 station for a 7:00 live meeting, so we were curious, okay? This  
3 is where we have to get down.

4           After about 15 minutes, train took a very sharp turn  
5 which was not expected, because we did that route in the morning  
6 and there was no such sharp turn at a high speed. So, we saw --  
7 we felt some tumbling and I said, okay, maybe I'm mistaken. The  
8 morning, I was sleepy, so I couldn't notice. But, within a few  
9 seconds, there was a loud bang sort of a thing and we could feel  
10 that, yes, something has gone terribly wrong. Our car was, I  
11 think, car number 6 --

12           **Passenger** : Second from the last.

13           **Passenger** : Second from the last. We were in car  
14 number 6. We were seated somewhere in the middle and just, I  
15 think, two windows from the emergency exit, we were seated, and  
16 seated in the direction the train was going.

17           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

18           Q.   And left side or right side?

19           A.   Left side.

20           Q.   Okay.

21           A.   And that's where it terribly shook. It came to a halt.

22           **Passenger** : We were sitting on the right side?

23           **Passenger** : We were sitting on the left side.

24           **Passenger** : The left side. Okay.

25           BY MR. KAMINSKI:



1 Q. Oh, you were on the left side?

2 A. Yeah.

3 **Passenger** : Yeah, we were on the left.

4 **Passenger** : I was on the aisle; he was on the window.

5 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yeah. And the train came to a halt in moments and  
8 everything was like flowing. I had a couple of people who came  
9 over me and that's why I was pushed through the window seat and  
10 that's where I broke a couple of my rib.

11 Q. Ribs?

12 A. Yeah. He --

13 Q. So you were in the aisle seat initially and then people  
14 fell on you and you fell through the window?

15 A. Yeah, yeah. And exact opposite went with him. The  
16 moment it crashed, he, I think, flew somewhere else and he was --  
17 when I again saw him, he was standing in the middle removing a  
18 couple of people. There were a few badly bruised people, but,  
19 generally, everybody was trying to help.

20 There was one guy who immediately opened the emergency  
21 exit. We could only locate one, I think, possibly on that side of  
22 the train which was tilted. There was only one.

23 The car ahead of us was completely off train -- off  
24 track and it was like -- this was the exact position, making an L.  
25 This was the -- our car was this, and the car ahead was -- ahead

1 of us was in this position.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yeah. And I think within a few --

4 Q. So, you were still upright? You weren't turned to the  
5 side?

6 A. No, we don't -- we weren't turned to the side. Our car  
7 was slightly tilted --

8 Q. Tilted? Okay.

9 A. -- towards one side, which probably made a little easy  
10 for people to come out of the window and get onto the base.

11 Q. Ground?

12 A. Yeah. And the entire thing took place in 30 seconds, if  
13 I'm not mistaken, and --

14 Q. From the time you felt the shaking and the loud noise --

15 A. Absolutely, yeah.

16 Q. -- to --

17 A. To the car coming to a halt and lights going off.

18 Q. Right. And then how long then before you were able to  
19 exit then? Did somebody open the window, break the window?

20 A. It was complete panic, so it took a little time. But  
21 the emergency window was open within, I think, less than a minute.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So there was one guy who took the window out and we  
24 tried and help a couple of female get out. I was in severe pain  
25 because of this particular thing, so I moved out, I think, about

1 after 10, 12 people, and -- yeah.

2 Q. So you have some fractured ribs on your right side?

3 A. On my right side.

4 Q. On your -- okay. And so, you felt the shaking, you  
5 heard a loud bang, and then you --

6 A. We felt the shaking and there was -- the train was  
7 taking a sharp turn, which I think personally wasn't expected,  
8 because we did that track in the morning. So it was going at a  
9 very decent speed, I would say, and there was this turn which was  
10 taken. And it shook a little bit, but between that shake and the  
11 car coming to a halt, it took almost about 30 seconds.

12 Q. Thirty seconds? Okay.

13 A. Yeah, and the lights went off. That was the last I  
14 remember.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. That's the last you remember of this?

18 A. That's the last I remember inside the car.

19 Q. Oh.

20 A. After that, it was panic. I was awake. A couple of  
21 people were over me, so I couldn't breathe. Once they got off, I  
22 got some back massage and I was able to breathe.

23 Q. Okay. And do you know what you hit your ribs on to  
24 fracture your ribs?

25 A. Two people fell on me.

1 Q. Oh, the two people that fell on you?

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. Okay. So it wasn't any -- did they break out that  
4 emergency window or did somebody open it and push it out?

5 A. Somebody opened it and pushed it out.

6 Q. Okay, okay. And then were you able to walk to an  
7 ambulance, then, or a paddy wagon or --

8 A. Yeah, we walked to the side of the track, and then I  
9 think the paramedics and police came. We were taken off to the  
10 track, taken care of, live vitals, and then I was taken to a  
11 policeman. From -- that policeman took me to one of the smaller  
12 hospitals around. I don't remember the name. So, a CAT scan was  
13 done there which diagnosed the fractured ribs, so I was taken care  
14 of.

15 Q. Okay. Okay, I think that should do it.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: I'll start with **Passenger** .

17 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 14-2**

18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. And, **Passenger** , why don't you give me a description of  
20 what you recall about the crash --

21 A. I was --

22 Q. -- from the time you started out and --

23 A. The description was almost similar as **Passenger** said.  
24 After it took off from Street 32, we were --

25 **Passenger** : 30th Street.

1           **Passenger** : 30th Street, yes. And then we saw the  
2 train was moving at a decent speed. We thought that because it  
3 took off late from the Washington, so we thought that it was going  
4 to make it that particular -- because it was a few minutes, or 7  
5 odd minutes, so we'd reach on time.

6           And then because I was sitting on the window seat and,  
7 immediately, after a few minutes, I saw that train is taking a  
8 turn. So, from window, I could see the front cars, and then I  
9 realized it's on pretty much decent speed. And in the  
10 (indiscernible) of seconds, I realized that it is not moving; it's  
11 just drifting. Maybe someone has pulled up the brake.

12           It does that, and then after that, for a couple of  
13 seconds, we were rolling in the train and we couldn't know, like,  
14 who fell on us and whom we fell on.

15           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

16           Q. Okay. So somebody fell on top of you as well or --

17           A. Yes.

18           Q. Who was that?

19           A. Yes, somebody fell on me as well.

20           Q. Okay.

21           A. And we roll over twice, twice or thrice, and when it  
22 stopped and I opened my eyes, then I saw that it's complete  
23 blackout and I -- I mean, of course, that person was falling on  
24 me. And then I got to stand up and I first started searching for  
25 my, obviously, friend, . And then I saw that he's falling

1 between two seats and a couple of people are falling on him, and I  
2 pulled them and then I pulled him out. And he was so shocked and  
3 -- I mean, that place I -- I mean, the first words came out of my  
4 mouth was that, thank God, we are alive, so don't worry; we are  
5 alive. We are alive. We are okay.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. Just wait, just wait. And then I realized then, I mean,  
8 it's completely a mess. And one gentleman, I mean, he was  
9 completely in his senses. He came and he opened up that emergency  
10 window. And then I made him sit on the seat. I found a seat. I  
11 made him sit on the seat and then helped. There were some old  
12 people who were not able to even breathe and stand, I tried to  
13 help them. And then, I mean, we tried to --

14 **Passenger** : Do you remember when the last lot that came  
15 out the door (indiscernible)?

16 **Passenger** : Yeah. And then I make him, I mean, get out  
17 first.

18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. Get out first? Yeah.

20 A. And then I helped other people. And then I was the, I  
21 think, second last person who came out of that group. So --

22 Q. Okay. And --

23 **Passenger** : The police still on, they opened the door.  
24 The door wasn't opened.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: What door?

1           **Passenger** : The exit --

2           **Passenger** : The back door.

3           **Passenger** : -- exit at the back. That wasn't opening,  
4 stuck. The police came and they banged on the door and they got  
5 it open.

6           **Passenger** : Yeah. He, he get out of, got out from  
7 window.

8           **Passenger** : I came out of window. I didn't see  
9 (indiscernible).

10          **Passenger** : I get off from the last buggy, from the --

11          BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12          Q.    Okay, so you were able to get out of the regular  
13 doorway?

14          A.    Yeah. I mean --

15          **Passenger** : Yeah.

16          **Passenger** : -- we were three people who were actually  
17 walked to the last buggy and last car and we got off from the  
18 door, the back door.

19          **Passenger** : You came out of the seventh car.

20          **Passenger** : Yeah, I came off the seventh car.

21          BY MR. KAMINSKI:

22          Q.    So, you and two other people --

23          A.    Seventh car was -- sorry.

24          Q.    You and two other people from -- you guys were in the  
25 sixth car.

1 A. Yeah, we were in the sixth car.

2 Q. So, you and two other people from your car went out  
3 through this door?

4 A. Yeah, we walked up to the seventh car and then we got  
5 off from the last door. Then the help arrived. And then I picked  
6 him up and we walked across the tracks and went onto the road  
7 where they help us came out and and then we went in ambulance.  
8 They took us to the -- I mean, that was also a Temple Hospital. I  
9 think that's like the only hospital.

10 Q. Which one?

11 A. Then we're leaving of Temple Hospital.

12 Q. Okay.

13 **Passenger** : (Indiscernible).

14 **Passenger** : We went there. We got processed there, and  
15 then they scanned us, and then we found that he had broken his  
16 rib. We had an idea because he was not able to walk --

17 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

18 Q. Breathe?

19 A. -- he was not able to sit even. So I had the idea that  
20 there's an injury inside. And after a scan, it was clear. Then  
21 we got back to the -- this main hospital.

22 Q. Okay. So you were just treated and released? You  
23 weren't hospitalized overnight? Or were you --

24 A. There only. There only.

25 Q. Oh, is --



1 A. I was treated and released there only.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yeah, at the community hospital.

4 Q. And what types of injuries did you sustain?

5 A. I had a -- I had broken my index finger of left hand. I  
6 had muscle injury in my right inside knee, and the lower back  
7 muscles were --

8 Q. Lower? Okay.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And what happened to your knee? You --

11 A. That's also a muscle sprain.

12 Q. A sprain too?

13 A. Yeah, a sprain too, within the joints.

14 Q. Sprained right knee?

15 A. Right knee, index finger of --

16 Q. Index finger?

17 A. -- the left hand is fractured, and the sprain on the  
18 lower back.

19 Q. Okay. And I forgot to ask you, [REDACTED] what is your  
20 date of birth?

21 A. [REDACTED]

22 **Passenger** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

23 **Passenger** [REDACTED] : Oh, sorry. [REDACTED]

24 **Passenger** [REDACTED] : You're not used to --

25 **Passenger** [REDACTED] : I'm so sorry.

1           **Passenger** : You're not used to saying that.

2           **Passenger** : I am so sorry.

3           **Passenger** : We generally say the date first, then the  
4 month and then the year.

5           **Passenger** : Yeah.

6           **Passenger** : That's [REDACTED]

7           MR. KAMINSKI: Oh.

8           **Passenger** : So, it's [REDACTED].

9           MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, okay.

10          **Passenger** : [REDACTED]

11          BY MR. KAMINSKI:

12          Q.    Okay. So, would -- so, you felt the train turning, you  
13 could see the cars ahead of you --

14          A.    Yeah, I saw that.

15          Q.    -- and you could see that they -- when you went off  
16 and --

17          A.    Yeah, then it was --

18          Q.    -- do you feel you rolled?

19          A.    I realized that it's not moving; it's drifting on the  
20 right side.

21          Q.    Right.

22          A.    When it was taking turn, I completely -- I mean, I got  
23 that sense that it is not moving, it is drifting.

24          Q.    Right.

25          A.    And in the fraction of seconds, then it started rolling

1 on.

2 Q. So, you were rolling up --

3 A. Yes, we were rolling.

4 **Passenger** : The car didn't, not the car.

5 **Passenger** : Not the car, we started rolling on.

6 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

7 Q. Oh.

8 A. Because the car turned on one side, and then we were  
9 rolling and -- I don't know.

10 Q. Okay. So, the car didn't roll over; you just --

11 **Passenger** : No, the car (indiscernible).

12 **Passenger** : Not us, not us, but the front ones.

13 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

14 Q. Right.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Right. Okay. Okay, I think that's it, you guys. I  
17 appreciate your help and cooperation going through these  
18 questions. It was good.

19 Okay, so you went out the window. You went out the back  
20 door.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And did you guys feel the speed? Did it seem like it  
23 was going faster or did it seem like you're dragged down in the  
24 morning, but it seemed -- and were just dragged --

25 **Passenger** : It was (indiscernible) in the morning.

1           **Passenger** : Yeah, when --

2           **Passenger** : I clearly remember. I was awake a long  
3 period of time time. There was no shock, (indiscernible) as such.  
4 (indiscernible) like so to speak. This time coming back, that is  
5 something that I clearly remember, that that's where it started.

6           MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay.

7           **Passenger** : That's where it is.

8           MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay, that concludes the interview  
9 here at approximately 10 minutes after 2:00.

10           (Whereupon, at 2:10 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 14-1**  
                                  and **Passenger 14-2**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:                      Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.



Karen M. Galvez  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 16**

May 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

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Telephone Interview of **Passenger 16** :

By Mr. Kaminski

5



I N T E R V I E W

1

2

**Passenger 16** : Do you want me to walk through my experience and or do you (indiscernible) questions? How do you want to do it?

5

MR. KAMINSKI: Well, first of all, I just -- it's

6

**Passenger 16**, correct?

7

**Passenger 16** : Yes, that's right.

8

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And you spell your name

9

**Passenger 16**

10

**Passenger 16** : That's right, yeah.

11

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And what's your date of birth?

12

**Passenger 16** : **Passenger 16**.

13

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And a good contact number for you is this **Passenger 16**?

15

**Passenger 16** : Yeah, that's right. We'll be in the country until Thursday and then we're leaving.

17

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

18

**Passenger 16** : We live overseas, so email is also good for follow-up and I can give you that email address if you need it.

21

MR. KAMINSKI: Sure. Why don't you give that just in case we need to follow up?

23

**Passenger 16** : Sure thing. It's

24

**Passenger 16**.

25

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, great.

## INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]

2 BY MR. KAMINISKI:

3 Q. So, **Passenger 16**, basically, if you could just give me  
4 a statement from -- tell me where you got on and if you remember  
5 where you were seated, what car you were in and just give me a  
6 description of what you recall about your experience and as well  
7 as all the way up to the point where you got out and went to the  
8 hospital.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And then I'll follow up any other questions after that.

11 A. Sure thing. No problem. Yeah, so we got on the train  
12 at Washington, D.C. and basically hopped into the second to last  
13 car or the second car from the rear. And we were seated on the  
14 right-hand side, our feet were pointed forward, and we were  
15 probably 3 to 5 feet from the rear door of the second to last car.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Yeah. It was we -- I say we because I'm with my wife;  
18 she was traveling with me at the time. And so we were sitting  
19 there and, you know, I was actually sleeping on the train when the  
20 crash happened so I can't make any statements of fact regarding my  
21 perception of the speed of the train, whether it sped up or slowed  
22 down or anything like that, so --

23 You know, all I can remember, to be honest, is what felt  
24 like a very vigorous shake. Essentially it felt like what it  
25 feels like when you're in a car when it's driving off road. So, a

1 lot of shaking and a lot of -- you know, more than normal. And,  
2 you know, and then once we stopped moving forward it was evident  
3 that we were tilted, the car was tilted about 30 degrees, so that  
4 our side was closer to the ground and then the side on the left  
5 was up in the air. And there's just a bunch of dust and debris in  
6 the car, which at first we weren't sure whether there was smoke  
7 involved or if there was a fire, and some people were worried  
8 about that, speaking out loud, oh, is there a fire in the car?

9 But, basically, with the debris it was difficult,  
10 visibility was difficult. I found someone's phone, called our  
11 phones, picked those up. Or my wife's phone, we got hers. I  
12 found mine, but it was wedged in between the seat near the wall,  
13 so I ended up having to leave it. But aside from that, we got all  
14 our bags, including the luggage that was stored overhead, which  
15 was heavy and jammed in pretty tight so it didn't end up moving  
16 all that much. So we were able to pull it right down.

17 There were difficulties in terms of figuring out where  
18 to get out of the train. And so here's where I think it might be  
19 a worthwhile note is. You know, at first people were thinking of  
20 going up to the front of the car, but, you know, knowing that  
21 after we saw the configuration of the train crashing, it was  
22 obvious that we couldn't get out that way. And then we weren't  
23 sure if we could get out the back way either. So people were  
24 opening the windows for -- you know the emergency windows.

25 But both because the windows were so high up, you

1 know --

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. I think they were probably 7 to 10 feet off the ground.  
4 You know, so with people being dazed and, you know, people were  
5 very reluctant to jump out those emergency windows, combined with  
6 the fact that there were concerns about live wire on the track,  
7 so --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. You know, people were definitely very -- I mean, there  
10 was one person that hopped out that way because someone had come  
11 out of the train and was just helping him out. But aside from  
12 that individual, no one else was willing to go out those windows.  
13 It just felt like it was too high a safety risk. And so, you  
14 know, we basically sat tight for a second and we were helping a  
15 passenger who was clearly a little bit more injured than we were.  
16 He was in the bathroom when the crash happened.

17 After a few minutes, first responders came on the scene  
18 which is in effect, I mean, very good time. It was probably about  
19 10 to 12 minutes after the crash happened, the first responders  
20 are on the scene. I mean, we felt like the response was  
21 remarkably quick and effective in getting people off the train.  
22 So they opened up the back rear car of the train and we grabbed  
23 our luggage, sort of maneuvered our way out, which was a little  
24 bit difficult because of all the car -- the seats in the car were  
25 also screwed, so we still had to maneuver through a bunch of

1 seats.

2 But we got out the back and people were out there  
3 helping passengers down. And then we went off to the side. If  
4 you're walking out the rear of the car, we went off to the left  
5 side and we went down towards the tree line and then just -- there  
6 was triage area set up there, and we just essentially donated our  
7 bags for a couple of injured passengers who needed to sit on  
8 something, sort of, flat and a little bit more stable than the  
9 dirt and rocks that were on the ground from the train.

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. So, you know, we stayed with them. The medics came.  
12 They had a little bit of trouble finding a stretcher for one of  
13 the patients who was diagnosed by a medic who was nearby with what  
14 looked like a fractured skull, an elderly woman. And so we stayed  
15 with her. We stayed with them. Eventually they got her a  
16 stretcher, and then we grabbed our bags and followed a policeman  
17 who was very helpful in guiding us over the tracks of where the  
18 live wires, walked out towards what was essentially the road where  
19 the ambulances were stationed and all that.

20 You know, I would say the overall experience -- and from  
21 there we waited about an hour while they tried to figure out how  
22 to process patients who were injured or process patients who might  
23 have been walking wounded, they called them, and needed to go to  
24 the hospital. But for us, we had almost no scratches at all.

25 Q. Wow.

1           A.    Yeah, so we just basically walked off, called my wife's  
2 father who was picking us up at Metro Park, which is where we were  
3 getting off the train, and so he just turned around and went down  
4 the Turnpike and picked us up at (indiscernible) area school. I  
5 think it was 3400 Frankford, and he just picked us up there and we  
6 went home.

7           Q.    Wow, okay. Well, you guys were very lucky, no doubt.

8           A.    Yeah, I know, I know.

9           Q.    And so, [REDACTED], what is your wife's name so we  
10 don't double call you guys?

11          A.    Yeah, her name is [REDACTED] (ph.).

12          Q.    Oh.

13          A.    That's [REDACTED].

14          Q.    Yes, I just tried calling her at a [REDACTED]

15          A.    Yeah.

16          Q.    And it says not in service.

17          A.    Oh, it's [REDACTED]. That might be why.

18          Q.    [REDACTED] Okay.

19          A.    Yeah.

20          Q.    And, **Passenger 16** [REDACTED], what is your date of birth?

21          A.    [REDACTED]

22          Q.    And how about your wife, [REDACTED]

23          A.    It's [REDACTED]

24          Q.    [REDACTED]. And you said you got on in Washington, D.C.?

25          A.    Um-hum, yeah.

1 Q. Okay. When you got on, do you recall was there any kind  
2 of announcements regarding the safety -- you know, the windows, or  
3 the equipment, safety equipment, that's in the cars?

4 A. No, there wasn't. But now that you mention that,  
5 actually, it reminds me to say that when we boarded the cars, they  
6 were all hot and the announcement was that the power was out in  
7 all the cars --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. -- and they had just turned the power on, so the AC  
10 would just starting to run. But the cars were all hot and then  
11 they said there would be delay opening the café car. They didn't  
12 exactly say why the electricity was out in the car, but they just  
13 said they had just turned it on.

14 But other than that, there was no specific announcement  
15 about safety protocol. Are you referring to things you would get  
16 in an airplane like where to go in the event of a crash, something  
17 like that?

18 Q. Yes, exactly. I mean, they should be mentioned, there's  
19 like a brochure in the seatbacks; did you happen to see that?

20 A. We saw it, but there was no announcement pointing people  
21 in the direction of that pamphlet.

22 Q. Okay. Okay, did you happen to look at the pamphlet or  
23 no?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. And so you were seated, you said, on the second

1 car from the end. You were on the right side about three to five  
2 rows up from the back?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Okay. And were you in the window seat or the aisle  
5 seat?

6 A. I was in the window seat. My wife was in the aisle  
7 seat.

8 Q. Okay. And so there was -- some passengers did attempt  
9 to open up the windows that were up, because you guys were on the  
10 right side, I take it?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. It would, I guess, would be the passenger side if you  
13 were in a car, but the right side.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So people were trying to open the windows or it was just  
16 too high?

17 A. They successfully opened the window, and actually  
18 because the car was tilted on our side closer to the ground, those  
19 windows were closer to the ground than they would normally be.  
20 But even at that height people had concerns about jumping out and  
21 potentially injuring themselves, especially because the train  
22 tracks, you know, were -- you know, you could potentially curve on  
23 them when you landed on the ground and also people had concerns  
24 about live wires and where those might be. So only one person  
25 went out that way, but the window had been opened properly.



1 Q. Okay. And when you say properly, did you happen to know  
2 was it like the emergency exit window where they can pull on that  
3 and it opens up?

4 A. Yes, that's the one.

5 Q. Okay. And then did you -- you said that you didn't have  
6 any kind of injuries or just bumps and bruises?

7 A. Yep, just bumps and bruises. I mean, it felt like --  
8 yeah, I mean, it was, you know, maybe nothing more than a  
9 strenuous workout, to be honest.

10 Q. Okay. And how about your wife, [REDACTED] any bumps or  
11 bruises?

12 A. No, I mean, just minor stuff. I mean, she was mostly  
13 sore from carrying the luggage out of the train with me, so --

14 Q. Oh, yeah, that --

15 A. That's it.

16 Q. Yeah. Now, after the crash occurred, was there any  
17 lighting inside your car?

18 A. Hang on. Let me ask my wife actually.

19 Was there any lighting in the car after the crash?

20 Yeah, the emergency lighting came on on the ground. It  
21 was still hard to see. I mean, we had to pull phones out to look  
22 under the chairs for my glasses and our phones, stuff like that,  
23 but the emergency lights that were in the train were operational.

24 Q. Okay. Okay, I think that's about it. So when you got  
25 out, then, you went to your left. You kind of waited -- or you

1 got your luggage and you kind of waited around. So you weren't  
2 taken to any hospitals. Did you go later to any hospitals or no?

3 A. No. We chose -- I mean, there were buses that were  
4 available for people if they felt like they needed to get checked  
5 out by a doctor, but we chose to forego them and we didn't feel  
6 like we were injured enough to sufficiently to warrant a hospital  
7 visit.

8 Q. Right. But obviously you gave your names and phone  
9 numbers to a police officer?

10 A. You know, that was actually, I would say, the most  
11 troublesome part of the whole thing, which was -- you know, I  
12 thought that response to all injured patients was excellent. I  
13 mean, we felt like at any point we could speak to an officer and,  
14 you know, get some attention if we had any issue. But when it  
15 came to actually getting our names down at the scene, no one knew  
16 where that was occurring. I had to ask several people. Because  
17 her father showed up at the scene and was ready to take us home  
18 and we were ready to go home. We just wanted to go home, to be  
19 honest, after you the ordeal, so --

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. I went to several police officers and medics and  
22 firefighters who were stationed there and said, hey, who do I talk  
23 to to put my name down, you know, just to say, I'm fine and, you  
24 know, we're walking away, we don't need hospital treatment or  
25 anything like that? No one knew where that person was. And it

1 wasn't until we got to the school on 3400 Frankford, I think is  
2 what it was, that someone wrote our names down on a piece of  
3 paper. But it wasn't clear whether that was part of the tracking  
4 for the passengers on the train or not. But it didn't feel like  
5 anyone was recording that in a way that was sort of systematic or  
6 -- I'm assuming none of the responders on the team knew who that  
7 was going to be.

8 Q. Okay. Okay. Well, [REDACTED], I appreciate your  
9 help and cooperation. And I'm not sure if we'll need to talk to  
10 your wife or not, but being that she'll probably, pretty much,  
11 give us -- can you ask her is there anything she'd like to add?

12 A. No. I'm looking at her right now and she's shaking her  
13 head, so --

14 Q. Okay. Okay.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Well, I appreciate your help and  
16 cooperation. You have my phone number here. This is my cell  
17 phone number, [REDACTED] So if there's anything else you'd  
18 like to -- you remember you'd like to add, please feel free to  
19 give me a call back.

20 **Passenger 16** : Will do, thanks a lot. Thanks for  
21 calling.

22 MR. KRAMINSKI: Thank you so much, sir.

23 **Passenger 16** : All right, take care.

24 MR. KRAMINSKI: Thanks, you too.

25 **Passenger 16** : Bye.

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MR. KRAMINSKI: Bye-bye.  
(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of [REDACTED]  
                                  **Passenger 16**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Michelle Smiroldo  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 17**

Saturday,  
May 16, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D.  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D., Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

LARRY DAY, Passenger Railroad Safety Specialist  
Federal Railroad Administration

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I N T E R V I E W

1

2

DR. BARTH: Okay. Let me get -- so your name is Pamela

3

**Passenger 17** is that right?

4

**Passenger** : Correct, um-hum. That's correct.

5

DR. BARTH: Okay. And what's your date of birth?

6

**Passenger** : [REDACTED]

7

DR. BARTH: Okay. And -- if you don't mind, what we ask

8

is the person's height and weight, just approximately.

9

**Passenger** : Sure. Sure. [REDACTED]

10

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 17**

11

BY DR. BARTH:

12

Q. Okay. And when you -- do you know where you were seated

13

in the train? Like, which --

14

A. Yeah.

15

Q. -- which train car?

16

A. We were in the last train car.

17

Q. Okay.

18

A. And I was seated on the -- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were on the

19

very last two seats on the left side, forward facing, and I was on

20

the seat in front of them. And I was actually at the time,

21

because a gentleman had just gotten off at the 30th station, I

22

had -- I was turned around on my knees, kind of hanging over the

23

seat chatting with them.

24

Q. Oh, that's right. I remember them telling me. So --

25

A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- you were in -- so that was the, did you say the  
2 second-to-last row on the --

3 A. Second-to-last row on the -- like, if we were facing the  
4 front of the train, on the left side.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the last two seats and I was  
7 in the seat ahead of them, but I was on my knees turned around,  
8 facing them --

9 Q. Okay. And were you --

10 A. -- chatting.

11 Q. So were you in the window seat or the aisle seat?

12 A. I was kind of truthfully in the middle because it was  
13 easier on my knees just kind of to --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. -- to have a knee on one -- on either side of the hump,  
16 if that makes it -- you know, it just felt a little more  
17 supported --

18 Q. Right.

19 A. -- for whatever reason. I just subconsciously because,  
20 you know, I'm a certain age, so my -- I just have this memory of  
21 thinking, oh, I'll just sort of shift this way and --

22 Q. Right.

23 A. So I was really almost in the center of the seats, of  
24 the two seats.

25 Q. Okay. And so what -- when do you first recall something

1 going wrong?

2 A. I just -- there -- it just felt, it felt like we got  
3 really fast all of a sudden because it compelled us to react, if  
4 that makes sense.

5 Q. Uh-huh.

6 A. So it compelled us to react, react -- compelled us to  
7 react a little bit. And then -- then I started to hear grinding  
8 and screeching and kind of metally grinding, screeching sounds.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And at that point -- and then there was this huge couple  
11 of bangs, and then I felt myself just catapulted to the front of  
12 the train, up the aisle. And then there was a -- I feel like  
13 there was another bang. And at that moment -- and then there was  
14 the moment where you sort of realize that this is not just a  
15 stopping -- you know, that something's going on, like -- and so  
16 trying to, like, get control of your body in the space, but you  
17 couldn't.

18 Q. Uh-huh.

19 A. And so -- and then there was this sort of, kind of lurch  
20 that happened and things settled for a minute after these bangs.  
21 And then there was a sideward lurch, like a really fast and  
22 furious sideward lurch, where --

23 Q. To which side, do you remember?

24 A. -- I was just -- I was just catapulted, if you will, and  
25 luckily, just dead between two seats. I didn't go through a seat

1 or on a seat. Kind of landed between two seats and so smacked my  
2 head a bit. And then there was another sort of lurch and -- and  
3 then, the whole time there were all of these sort of grinding,  
4 metally sounds going on.

5 Q. Um-hum.

6 A. And, and then, then things went -- and at that last sort  
7 of lurching, a lot of luggage and people and laptops and -- I just  
8 remember this sort of hailstorm of belongings and things. And for  
9 me, you know, a kind of -- lady went by. And at that point I  
10 tried to cover my head a little bit. You know, my instinct was to  
11 cover my head, so I didn't see a whole lot at that moment. And  
12 then there was that sort of moment when you realized it was done.

13 And you know, I was talking to [REDACTED] and -- I saw  
14 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] yesterday afternoon and I had no cognizance of  
15 how long this all took. It seemed so fast and so slow because I  
16 can remember so much of it.

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. But anyway, so then I --

19 Q. Let me ask you --

20 A. -- realized I was okay, that I could get up, and that I  
21 could walk. And my first instinct -- and then what shocked me was  
22 how far up the train I was. I was probably two thirds of the way  
23 up the car. And then I -- you know, my first instinct was to make  
24 sure I was okay. And then people began to stir, and I kind of  
25 looked down the aisle, and somehow in the mayhem I had lost my

1 glasses. But I looked down the aisle and I could make out [REDACTED]  
2 and then I could make out [REDACTED]. And he was -- had been -- he  
3 wasn't as far up the aisle as I was, but he was up the train too,  
4 but [REDACTED] was still back where we were. And I suppose she was on  
5 the window side, so I don't know if that had anything to do with  
6 it. But then I noticed she was bleeding at above -- at her --  
7 well, later we knew it was above her eye, but it just -- like the  
8 whole side of her head just bloody.

9           And so [REDACTED] said he was okay, and then a couple of  
10 people -- like one gentleman identified himself as a police  
11 officer, I guess, an off-duty police officer, and then another  
12 gentleman -- and so I remember him saying, we need to get off of  
13 here. Everybody get off of here, help whoever you can.

14           And so most people were ambulatory. There weren't --  
15 you know, I don't -- I can tell you who I saw the most damaged.  
16 Sitting in the last seat on the opposite of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was,  
17 I guess, whoever the employee is that rides the car. Because,  
18 ironically, when we first got in, I said, oh, we'll have two seats  
19 across and then he stepped up and he said, oh no, this is my seat.  
20 And there's like a -- I guess maybe a communication box or  
21 something that sat there with him. And he was -- I just remember  
22 -- I just have this memory of him being badly hurt because he  
23 really couldn't -- because I kept -- because in my head, I'm a  
24 teacher, so I just think, who's the person who would know? Oh,  
25 the man across from us. And then I realized, well, he's not going

1 to help because he just wasn't able -- he was, you know, barely  
2 able to move and --

3 Q. Did he have any obvious -- like, where were his -- was  
4 his injuries obviously on the head or body or was it unable to  
5 tell?

6 A. It seems that, it seems that, yeah, I mean, he just  
7 seemed -- he was moving, but he just seemed, you know, it was  
8 clear he wasn't going to be the person to tell us what to do --

9 Q. Right.

10 A. -- in other words. That was just instinctual. I --  
11 because, you know, I always want to -- thinking, I don't know what  
12 to do, who's going to tell me what to do?

13 Q. Right --

14 A. And whoever this gentleman who identified himself as a  
15 police officer, just -- his -- I guess he just said, we need to  
16 get off. Let's all get off the train. And the -- so we headed  
17 toward the back, the very back of the train, of course. And  
18 that's where I headed because I wanted to make sure that I had  
19 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with me.

20 And then they tried the -- so on the door, it really  
21 only opened -- this gentleman, another gentleman tried to open it  
22 and maybe it opened a third of the way, you know. I'm pretty sure  
23 anybody who was any larger than me was going to really struggle  
24 getting out of that door. I'm not sure if everybody came out that  
25 door because it was not a large opening to get out of.

1 Q. Do you remember how he -- how did he physically open the  
2 door?

3 A. He -- there was like a lever and he really had to really  
4 muscle into it, but it really wasn't cooperating with him at all.  
5 It didn't. Like, I just thought -- I remember thinking, oh,  
6 that's just going to pop right open; that'll be good. And it  
7 didn't.

8 Q. Was the lever --

9 A. And that, you know, that was my first sort of mild panic  
10 and --

11 Q. Um-hum.

12 A. -- and I even tried to help. And then another gentleman  
13 stepped up and said no, here, let me try. And it just wasn't  
14 going to open all the way. It just -- at least in my -- the  
15 experience that I had, whether they were ever finally able to open  
16 it, I don't know that, but --

17 Q. Was that lever on the door or above the door?

18 A. It was on the door. It was like toward the center of  
19 the door, is what --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- he was trying to use.

22 Q. And we're talking about --

23 A. And the other thing is, it was dark. I don't have  
24 any -- I really believe it was dark. Now, part of it was I didn't  
25 have my glasses.

1 Q. Uh-huh.

2 A. But I remember not, you know, not seeing -- you know,  
3 not being able to, like, see things. Like wanting to see.

4 Q. Um-hum.

5 A. And there -- and I don't -- I wouldn't say smoky, but  
6 there was debris, there was stuff in the air.

7 Q. Yep.

8 A. In fact, you know, later on, I sort of -- you know, in  
9 my hair, there were like tiny little pieces (indiscernible). Tiny  
10 pieces of -- the color of cinderblock. I don't know that it was  
11 cinderblock, but that kind of gray color of cinderblock. These  
12 tiny little pieces of --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. -- stuff like that in my hair and in my nose and my  
15 ears.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. So much later, like the next morning, I discovered that,  
18 but --

19 Q. Right. Let me ask you --

20 A. But --

21 Q. Let me ask you, did the -- was the door on the side of  
22 the back of the train or on the very end?

23 A. Yes, it was on the side. So if [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I,  
24 if we were facing front, you know, facing the front of the car, we  
25 were on the left. That door would have been on the right because



1 we were exiting away from the train. So we would need -- so it  
2 would have been on the right side of the car, if you are facing  
3 the front of the car.

4 Q. Got it. Okay.

5 A. And there's that side door. So, and also, because that  
6 was the way the car was leaning, you know, the car was leaning  
7 substantially to that side, that probably seemed like a better way  
8 to go --

9 Q. Yep.

10 A. -- which probably wasn't as high up or -- I'm -- I don't  
11 know that anybody really thought that through, but I think that's  
12 probably -- we're just leaning that way, so that would be easier  
13 door to get to.

14 Q. So did you have to --

15 A. And everybody was --

16 Q. -- did you have to jump off?

17 A. -- everybody was shifted to the left. I'm sorry, what's  
18 that?

19 Q. Did you have to jump off? How did you get out of the  
20 train?

21 A. Yeah. Well -- it was kind of a jump. Yeah, it was kind  
22 of a jump because there really weren't -- you know, there was no  
23 platform obviously or anything, so there was a little bit of a  
24 jump. But there were a couple -- and then there were some  
25 gentlemen -- in fact, one was a 19-year-old boy. His name was

1       █ That's all I know. And he kind of stayed there till lots of  
2 people got off, and helping people get down and managing people  
3 off, pretty much, until, I think, the car -- at least until first  
4 responders came, that young man was there.

5       Q.    Okay.

6       A.    And then we got off, and these -- you know, this  
7 gentleman who identified himself as a police officer, just said to  
8 everybody, get away, get away. Because yeah, I guess, there --  
9 when you look back, it clearly, that car could have kept going,  
10 especially because we saw that the car ahead of it was flat on its  
11 side.

12       Q.    Right.

13       A.    So -- so, you know, immediately, okay, let's get away.  
14 But then the problem was, you know, it's very rocky next to the  
15 tracks and then the dirt beyond that was very soft, and then there  
16 was sort of a, you know, a hilly kind of thing, so people -- you  
17 know, if you went too far, you slid down. Plus, it was just pitch  
18 dark. It was just so dark.

19       Q.    Right.

20       A.    So it was really hard to see. And then there were --  
21 there was one lady who actually was █ mom, in a red dress.  
22 I'll never forget her. She identified herself as a nurse.  
23 Because my first -- what kept me calm was trying to attend to  
24 █, because I just didn't want her to know how bloody she was.  
25 I didn't want her to know how scary it looked. I just wanted to

1 keep her calm.

2           And so -- and I don't know if people were bringing out  
3 luggage thinking they were going to save their luggage, or --  
4 because I -- yeah, I just walked out with nothing, but -- but I  
5 think maybe what might have happened was some of the luggage --  
6 because there was just luggage everywhere. In fact, there were a  
7 couple people on -- up -- somehow landed on the luggage racks in  
8 the mayhem.

9           Q.    Okay.

10          A.    Like, I had a gentleman helped a couple -- I don't  
11 know if they were men or ladies, but I just have this vision of  
12 him reaching up to help some people out of the luggage rack, like  
13 up on the racks, as we were kind of moving -- trying to move out.

14          And the other thing that struck me too was how calm  
15 everyone was. There was not -- there wasn't hysteria. There  
16 wasn't -- and people helping people. And I'm sure, because on our  
17 train, you know, I don't know, I'm guessing, but I would say a  
18 majority of the passengers walked off on their own --

19          Q.    Um-hum.

20          A.    -- through their own selves. They didn't --

21          Q.    Okay.

22          A.    I don't believe they had to carry -- I don't know that  
23 as a fact, but that's what it felt like to me.

24          Q.    So once you got --

25          A.    You know, checking each other.

1 Q. Um-hum. So once you got out and you were walking  
2 through, did they direct you to a -- where did they send you?

3 A. Well, we just sort of stayed near -- because we were at  
4 the end, we just sort of stayed near. And at that point we were  
5 just trying to assess -- like the lady who said she was a nurse  
6 just said if you're bleeding, walk toward me. And then somebody  
7 opened a suitcase and she started handing out t-shirts or whatever  
8 we could. So, you know, I had a t-shirt on -- [REDACTED] and I were  
9 trying to stop the bleeding for [REDACTED] and keep her calm. And then  
10 they pulled some suitcases out so anybody who felt they just  
11 couldn't stand -- because, really, the ground was such that you  
12 couldn't, you just couldn't lay on it or sit on it. It was rocks  
13 and then it was this like really loose dirt, so --

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. -- it just wasn't going to -- you weren't going to be  
16 able to attend to anybody. So this nurse instructed folks to put  
17 suitcases down so people can sit, the people who needed to can sit  
18 on them.

19 And I would say by that time, we started to hear first  
20 responding kind of things. Like, I have a recollection of  
21 helicopters. And I started to hear sirens and then we started to  
22 see -- so if we got off the train and we're facing back of the  
23 car, to the left -- because to the right was where the rest of  
24 the -- I mean, that was just, you know, just the wreckage of the  
25 rest of the train where the, you know, just -- it looked like an

1 an accordion of just -- you couldn't see the whole train from  
2 there, but it --

3 Q. So how --

4 A. -- that was one of those moments where you realize this  
5 isn't -- this is huge.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And --

8 Q. So how did they --

9 A. -- and so then --

10 Q. Go ahead. How did they get you out of there then?

11 A. So then the first responders started to come and -- and  
12 again, it was very dark. And at that point in time all they had  
13 was flashlights, so they were kind of calling out and asking, you  
14 know, asking -- kind of assessing what are the -- you know, who --  
15 do we have bleeders? Do we have -- you know, and we called out  
16 that we had some bleeders there.

17 And then who can -- then they started to ask who can  
18 walk. And then they started to really be concerned about live  
19 wires. They started to really warn everybody that there was --  
20 there were potentially live wires. Whether they were or not, I  
21 don't know. But that's what the first responders were just making  
22 sure. Because I guess from the direction they were coming -- and  
23 I guess, later on, I found out that I guess they had to cut down a  
24 fence, bring down a fence that was on that side. And I -- and so  
25 they discovered these wires, whatever, so --

1 Q. Right. Okay.

2 A. So [REDACTED] needed to -- she had complained about her hip,  
3 so the woman who was the nurse suggested that she probably  
4 shouldn't walk just in case it's broken. And so then we waited  
5 for -- we waited for some first responders to bring a board, a  
6 stability board. And so then [REDACTED] and I walked out that way,  
7 but -- you know, so if we're facing the train, at the back of the  
8 train we exited across the tracks and through what seemed like  
9 some sort of empty field, empty lot. And it was sort of wild  
10 because it was going from this sort of pitch black, not -- and  
11 again, we didn't have our glasses --

12 Q. Right.

13 A. So this sort of pitch black feeling. And then I  
14 literally was holding onto the coat of the young man who had  
15 [REDACTED] part of the -- you know, it was four guys carrying [REDACTED]  
16 on a board, and I was kind of holding his coat. And I said, I  
17 said, buddy, I can't see and it's dark and you're telling me about  
18 live wires; you got to tell me where they are because I don't -- I  
19 can't see them. And so he was really great and he just instructed  
20 us, you know, step over; you know, there's some to the left. And  
21 I don't know whether they were really live. He said we'll treat  
22 them all like they are. So --

23 Q. Right.

24 A. So then we walked through this field and then it became,  
25 you know, where they had really just -- it was pretty miraculous,

1 because I don't think -- I think from the time -- because I -- and  
2 the other thing is, once we did get off the train, as soon as we  
3 got off the train and we got [REDACTED] settled, we realized [REDACTED] had  
4 his phone. So I called my husband and he called his children.  
5 Because we were all heading up to meet up with one of his  
6 daughters and one of my former students in New York. And we just  
7 wanted them --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- they kind of all knew we were on that train, so we  
10 just had the presence of mind to call and say we're okay, we don't  
11 know where we are, we don't know where we're going, we'll call  
12 back when we can.

13 Q. And then how did they take --

14 A. And so then --

15 Q. How did they take you off the scene then?

16 A. So then when we got to that area where the -- it was  
17 just this -- it looked like a city block, set of city blocks had  
18 just been shut down. And they had -- it was pretty organized for  
19 how short of time it had been. You know, they had -- you know,  
20 they were telling people, if you're walking -- were walking  
21 wounded, go this way. If you -- you know, those who need -- who  
22 feel like they need -- you know, that are bleeding or, you know,  
23 have a known trauma -- so they were sort of dividing, you know,  
24 dividing and conquering. And I know there was this one group, the  
25 walking wounded, which I would have been that --

1 Q. Did they give you a tag?

2 A. -- they were asking to get on these school busses and go  
3 to, you know, an -- I learned later that they were taking them to  
4 a school or something. But I didn't -- my concern that -- there  
5 was that moment where I went, I have no ID, no nothing. And if  
6 I -- I don't want to get separated from my friends. And so -- and  
7 I knew [REDACTED] would be okay at this point because, you know, the --  
8 there was an EMS guy assessing her, you know, to decide, you know,  
9 which hospital she should go to, I assume. I think that's what it  
10 was. And I heard her say, well, family members only can ride  
11 along. And then [REDACTED] -- well, my sister's coming with -- has  
12 to come with me and my husband.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And I said, yes, I'm her sister.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. So --

17 Q. So you stayed with them and -- did they give you a tag?

18 A. We got a tag when we got to the hospital. I think [REDACTED]  
19 got a tag, did get a tag in the hospital. Yeah, we didn't get a  
20 tag until -- so they put us in a paddy wagon --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- which is my first time ever. And it was [REDACTED] on the  
23 board and another lady named [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I. And that was  
24 the -- that was wilder than any ride I've ever taken in an  
25 amusement park. And but I was so grateful to be in it. And so



1 then they took us to Temple University. And I'm pretty sure we  
2 got a -- it was when we got off the paddy wagon that we got a  
3 tag --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- and they assessed us. I'm pretty --

6 Q. And then at Temple, did you get treated at Temple?

7 A. Yes, we did. They took [REDACTED] into a trauma area right  
8 away. And then [REDACTED] and I were sort of taken to an area where  
9 there were walking -- you know, (indiscernible) and walking  
10 wounded. Now, they had a board where they would ask you, you  
11 know, your age, and what you were feeling. You know, they were  
12 writing it up on a board. But I -- the thing they weren't doing  
13 is they weren't writing down names right away. I mean, it was  
14 mayhem. It really was.

15 (Music playing)

16 BY MR. BARTH:

17 Q. Oh, we might get a --

18 A. But then they --

19 Q. We might get a bunch of noise. We're in -- in the hotel  
20 we're at, if we get too much noise -- they're setting up for some  
21 sort of event. What we may have to --

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. -- to move, but hopefully it'll let us finish, so --

24 A. Okay. Sure.

25 Q. Anyway, so they were writing down your name and

1 everything?

2 A. Yeah, so they were -- and then -- so then, so then  
3 [REDACTED] and I, we were joking, we kind of got exiled because I  
4 think he and I were just so -- I was so grateful to be okay and he  
5 was so grateful. But he wasn't really -- he wasn't being truthful  
6 about how he was really feeling because I think he wanted to make  
7 sure that he wasn't separated from [REDACTED]. I don't think he -- you  
8 know, and so he --

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. -- he ended up with some cracked -- he had cracked ribs  
11 and a -- I think -- we think he's probably going to have to have  
12 some orthopedic surgery on his shoulder, but he wasn't really let  
13 go with that.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. He wasn't really being truthful. So on the surface, he  
16 looked great. You know, he had just had a --

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. -- few little lacerations that, you know, didn't -- I  
19 think only one of them required stitches. So he was being --

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. -- you know, pretty quiet. So we got sort of exiled to  
22 this area where nothing was happening. And so I just noticed that  
23 he was starting to sort of lose steam, and so -- and we got  
24 seen -- we sort of got assessed by these two ladies. I think they  
25 were nurses. They took our vitals and gave us a little ice

1 because I -- my wrist, my wrist and hand were kind of badly hurt.  
2 And we -- you know, we might have sat there for 20 minutes and  
3 then I realized that no more people were coming that way, and we  
4 were sort of off the beaten path. So at that point I kind of went  
5 to where the metal detector -- that we're at Temple University  
6 Hospital, so that they knew to come there. And, and so I kind of  
7 -- you know, I tried to get into what looked like a more secure  
8 area. This --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- security lady said, said you can't go in there. And  
11 she goes -- and I had blood all over my shirt and a tag on me, and  
12 she goes, oh, you were on the train. I said yes, and I explained  
13 that I'm pretty sure my friend needs to be seen and I'm -- you  
14 know, and then at that point, my hand was just swollen like a  
15 grapefruit. She says, well, I think you need to be seen too.

16 Q. Can you give me a --

17 A. And so then she --

18 Q. Can you give me a short description of your injuries?

19 A. Oh, yeah. I am great. I mean, I have a concussion. I  
20 have a badly sprained wrist, and I have multiple --

21 Q. Which wrist?

22 A. My left wrist.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And I have multiple substantial, you know, bruises, you  
25 know --

1 Q. Right.

2 A. -- contusions, pretty much from my -- from my calves up  
3 to my, to my shoulders.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But mostly on the back of me. Mostly on the back of me.

6 Q. On the back, okay.

7 A. Across my back and then on the sides of me, my thighs  
8 and hips and, you know --

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. -- those areas. So which --

11 Q. Did you --

12 A. -- probably --

13 Q. When you said, when you said that you first felt the  
14 train, you know, like -- or not, maybe not right at the beginning,  
15 but it was lurching back and forth and you flew off, so mostly did  
16 you -- you flew in sort of the forward of the train car, is the  
17 direction that you felt like you flew?

18 A. I fell -- I flew forward, yes.

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. The momentum was complete -- the first momentum was  
21 completely forward.

22 Q. Yeah. And then the other --

23 A. The first thing that forced me -- the first thing that  
24 forced me to lose control was that forward momentum. Like, I just  
25 was -- like, it was like somebody had shot me out of a cannon

1 feeling.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. And then do you remember -- let me just back up  
5 and ask a question about where did you get on the --

6 A. Sure.

7 Q. -- where did you get on the train?

8 A. We got on the train at BWI station just outside of  
9 Baltimore.

10 Q. Okay. And do you remember any kind of announcements or  
11 safety briefings when you guys -- at the station?

12 A. You know what, I don't. And (indiscernible) I don't. I  
13 don't remember anything. But of course we were chatting and  
14 probably not paying attention.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. But I don't. But I feel like, I don't know, I feel like  
17 I'm one of those people that if it were -- I probably would have  
18 paid attention if it was something unusual.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. You know what I mean, I didn't -- it was no unusual  
21 statements of any sort, no.

22 Q. Okay. And do you -- are you aware of -- what safety  
23 equipment in the train car are you aware of or did you see?

24 A. You know what, I'm -- I'm not aware, I'm not aware of  
25 any. I wasn't at that time. Since then, I've seen something on

1 TV that shows me. But I wasn't aware of how you open a train car  
2 window. I wasn't aware of -- since then, I've seen that there's a  
3 way to open that door without having to use the, you know, the --

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. -- the power.

6 Q. And did you know that there was a -- did you know that  
7 there's a little safety card in the seatback pocket?

8 A. I didn't.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I didn't. And now, of course, when you fly, you know  
11 all of that, right?

12 Q. Right.

13 A. I guess -- I guess I -- you just -- I don't know.

14 Q. Yeah, that's fine.

15 A. It feels different on the train. But I will tell you  
16 that, no, I had no cognizance of any of that.

17 Q. Okay. And did you -- after the train came to rest, you  
18 said that the lights were out in the train, right?

19 A. That's what I recall. I recall it being dark.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So much darkness, yeah. Because I -- because I feel  
22 like, I feel like there was a moment when I thought in my head,  
23 I'll see if I can find my purse. And then I think it may have  
24 been the combination of no glasses and it being dark that I didn't  
25 even worry about it. I kind of let that moment -- I let that go.

1 I went -- I went, wait a minute, we just -- and then that's when  
2 the gentleman said we need to get off of the train.

3 Q. Yeah. And do you remember hearing any -- so did you  
4 hear any -- you didn't hear any official announcements or any  
5 communications from the train crew or anything afterwards?

6 A. No. There was nothing. Anything that we were being  
7 told was coming within the train from other passengers who were,  
8 you know, just trying to help each other. And I just remember  
9 that one man telling us to get off. And I -- he identified  
10 himself as a police officer. And I think that was one of those  
11 where even if you had been sort of jumbled, you know, to have  
12 somebody just say it, just say get up and get -- if you can get up  
13 and get off, do it. We need to get off.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. That just sort of rallied the people --

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. -- you know.

18 Q. And my colleague has a question for you here.

19 A. Sure.

20 DR. BARTH: What's -- and why don't you give her your  
21 name, so --

22 MR. DAY: Yeah. I am Larry Day, D-a-y, and I'm with the  
23 Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration.

24 While you were --

25 [REDACTED]: Hi.

1 MR. DAY: Hi, there.

2 BY MR. DAY:

3 Q. While you were there, did you happen to hear the  
4 conductor, the person there that was sitting on the other seat  
5 that wouldn't let you sit there, did you hear any -- the radio or  
6 was it making any noise, talking to anybody, or listening to  
7 anything?

8 A. No, I don't -- and that's what I felt was interesting.  
9 But again, I -- to be fair, we were some of the first people off.  
10 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and myself and this nurse and this -- we were  
11 some of the first people off. Now, like the guy who said he was a  
12 police officer and this other young man kept going back on to help  
13 people off. So, I never saw -- once I got off the train, I never  
14 saw that employee again. But I just have this memory -- because  
15 in my head, I thought, oh, cool, we've got a worker here, like  
16 we're going to be -- he's going to tell us what to do. And then I  
17 realized that he was really badly hurt and probably that wasn't  
18 going to do it for us. Because he didn't even -- he wasn't even  
19 able to get up and instruct us about the door --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- you know what I mean?

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. So I had -- and I lost, had lost track of him after that  
24 because then I was able to get off the train and we were helping  
25 other people get down off the train. And then I was helping the



1 nurse lady with just finding things to put on people's wounds  
2 until the first responders showed up. So --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- so we were some of the first people off, do you know  
5 what I mean? So I'm not sure if he was -- but I didn't -- there  
6 was never any sort of --

7 DR. BARTH: Didn't hear anything, yeah.

8 **Passenger 17** -- word that came from any source that wasn't  
9 a passenger --

10 BY MR. DAY:

11 Q. Did, did --

12 A. -- for me anyway.

13 Q. When you got on between BWI and the incident itself, was  
14 the conductor there the whole time, or --

15 A. No, he traveled. In fact -- yeah, he traveled. He  
16 would, you know, move and get tickets from people. And, in fact,  
17 I think he had probably just sat down because we had just left the  
18 30th Street Station.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So he had just kind of, you know, checked all the -- you  
21 know, I guess he was about to check those tickets or he had just  
22 checked the tickets of people getting on. But he, he had -- as I  
23 recall, he had just sat down --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- as we had left 30th Street, yeah.

1 Q. Okay, great.

2 A. He -- I mean, I don't have -- I don't have a cognizance  
3 of him being there a lot, but I don't have a cognizance of him not  
4 being there. But I think I would have, I would have  
5 (indiscernible) --

6 DR. BARTH: Okay, that's fine.

7 MR. DAY: Yeah.

8 **Passenger 17** -- noticed if he was there, yeah.

9 BY MR. DAY:

10 Q. Yeah, that -- that's perfect, thank you. Going back to  
11 once you got out of the car, you said people were opening luggage.  
12 Now, was the luggage brought out of the car or was it already  
13 outside --

14 A. It was --

15 Q. -- scattered along?

16 A. It was brought -- I feel like it was brought out. I  
17 feel like there was some that was sort of had gotten itself in the  
18 way of the aisles and down in sort of the area where they were  
19 trying to open the door. And I think some of it, people tried  
20 to -- people carried out themselves, do you know what I mean? I  
21 think a few people actually carried their own belongings out. In  
22 fact, the one gentleman opened -- who opened his suitcase, he said  
23 this is mine, it's all clean, take what you want. And that was  
24 like one of the t-shirts that I put on [REDACTED] head. And I -- but  
25 I feel like a couple of things might have been tossed off just to

1 get out of the way so people could get through, do you know what I  
2 mean?

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 DR. BARTH: Yeah.

5 **Passenger 17** Just to clear a path because there was a  
6 bunch of junk that ended up -- I guess what would have been in  
7 between cars maybe, that area, you know, right behind us, where  
8 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were sitting, there was some -- just junk in  
9 there, like who knows what it was, suitcases. And I --

10 DR. BARTH: Okay.

11 **Passenger 17** -- I think some of it just got tossed to  
12 help. But then I do remember some people actually bringing some  
13 things with them. For example, the gentleman who offered it, he  
14 said this is my stuff, help yourself.

15 DR. BARTH: Yeah, okay.

16 **Passenger 17** So, yeah.

17 DR. BARTH: Okay. I think that wraps it up for our  
18 questions. Do you have anything you'd like to ask us?

19 **Passenger 17** No. I just -- you know, I will -- it'll be  
20 very interesting to find out what really happened, I guess.

21 DR. BARTH: Yeah, okay.

22 **Passenger 17** You know, I've ridden -- I've taken that  
23 train -- you know, I grew up in the Baltimore/D.C. area and I  
24 can't even count how many times I've taken that particular train  
25 to New York. So yeah, I'd like to know what happened, you know.

1 DR. BARTH: So what -- let me -- I can give you some  
2 information about the process then. So what happens with the NTSB  
3 is, you know, this is a very large-scale event, and it will take  
4 us quite a long time to create -- or, you know, to complete our  
5 investigation and do our reports --

6 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 17**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 16, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: **Passenger 18-1** **Passenger 18-2**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D.  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

THOMAS BARTH, Ph.D., Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 DR. BARTH: This **Passenger 18-1** and **Passenger 18-2**, passengers  
3 on the last car, last row of the train. Starting **Passenger 18-1**.

4 INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 18-1** **Passenger 18-2**

5 **Passenger 18-1**: I made the observation that even after we --  
6 you know, pretty much all the way along -- we got on the train at  
7 BWI station -- that whenever we were traveling at a, I would say,  
8 a good rate of speed, you know, over 40 or 50, I would say, just  
9 estimating --

10 **Passenger 18-2**: He's really good -- which he's pretty good  
11 at.

12 **Passenger 18-1**: -- the train was very rough. It was not a  
13 smooth ride at all.

14 **Passenger 18-2**: It was very wobbly and then --

15 **Passenger 18-1**: Yeah.

16 **Passenger 18-2**: -- the thing I want to bring out is where  
17 were we, and we noticed them laying tracks on the right side.

18 **Passenger 18-1**: Well, I thought --

19 **Passenger 18-2**: And we both said that's a good thing they're  
20 starting to lay new tracks because this is pretty wobbly.

21 DR. BARTH: Okay.

22 **Passenger 18-2**: Because I remember --

23 **Passenger 18-1**: A lot of side to side, you know what I mean  
24 by wobbly?

25 **Passenger 18-2**: -- specifically saying that to him.



1 DR. BARTH: Okay.

2 Passenger 18-1 : In other words, it was most -- it felt like  
3 we were fishtailing --

4 Passenger 18-2 : Yeah.

5 DR. BARTH: Okay.

6 Passenger 18-1 : -- if you want to put it that way.

7 Passenger 18-2 : Now maybe that's because we were in the last  
8 car, but --

9 Passenger 18-1 : And see, that's what I was saying earlier.

10 DR. BARTH: Could be.

11 Passenger 18-1 : Could be.

12 Passenger 18-2 : Yeah, we --

13 Passenger 18-1 : We've never had that experience of being in  
14 the last car in the last row, so --

15 DR. BARTH: That would be a good question for -- I mean,  
16 I can bring that up with our train guys.

17 Passenger 18-2 : Yeah.

18 Passenger 18-1 : I just --

19 DR. BARTH: I'm not a train -- I'm not an engineer.

20 Passenger 18-2 : I was trying to rationalize why I felt the  
21 way I did.

22 Passenger 18-2 : Yeah.

23 DR. BARTH: Okay.

24 Passenger 18-1 : Thinking, no, everything's okay, Passenger  
25 It's just that there's no car behind you that holds this end of

1 the car down.

2 DR. BARTH: Okay. Got it.

3 **Passenger 18-1**: So I was trying to rationalize.

4 **Passenger 18-2**: We were talking about how there's no  
5 cabooses anymore.

6 **Passenger 18-1**: Exactly.

7 DR. BARTH: Right.

8 **Passenger 18-1**: So, at any rate, when we were -- we were  
9 just having a conversation with our friend in the next seat up,  
10 and the first thing I noted was that there was clearly a violent  
11 decelerization or deceleration, and then I heard a boom. And I  
12 don't mean an explosion kind of boom. It was clearly metal  
13 against metal boom, like when something slams into something else.

14 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

15 **Passenger 18-1**: Except by that time, I had been thrown from  
16 my seat, had hit the back of the seat in front of me. And then as  
17 the train went to the side, I was essentially launched down the  
18 aisle. I --

19 DR. BARTH: Just forward down the aisle, but not to  
20 either side?

21 **Passenger 18-1**: No.

22 DR. BARTH: Okay.

23 **Passenger 18-1**: Forward down the aisle. I went, I'm going  
24 to say, one or possibly two seat places forward.

25 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

1           **Passenger 18-1** : And then got somehow launched into the seat  
2 area on the other side of the train, on the right side of the  
3 train.

4           DR. BARTH: Okay.

5           **Passenger 18-1** : And I landed -- I remember trying to relax,  
6 just to let myself, you know, not fight it. But I remember  
7 landing on my right hand -- my right side, sort of, if you will,  
8 on the floor between the two seats.

9           DR. BARTH: Okay. And so was the -- what was the  
10 orientation of the rail car?

11          **Passenger 18-1** : Rail car at that point seemed to me to be  
12 still upright.

13          DR. BARTH: Okay.

14          **Passenger 18-1** : Then what happened was -- and so there was  
15 this lull, if you will. Lord knows how long, a second, two  
16 seconds -- I can't tell you -- where I thought okay, we've come to  
17 a stop, everything will be okay. No. Then there was a second  
18 violent shift, if you will. And on that -- on the second, the  
19 luggage rack, to me, seemed to come down.

20          DR. BARTH: Okay.

21          **Passenger 18-1** : And what coincided with that, with when I  
22 recollect that, is when there was this -- almost a pouring of this  
23 concrete dust --

24          DR. BARTH: Okay.

25          **Passenger 18-1** : -- dirt of some kind that came down in my

1 face. And I have to admit, at the time I thought, well, where the  
2 hell is that coming from? We're inside this train. Why would  
3 that be -- you know, you know, that didn't make sense somehow.

4 DR. BARTH: Okay.

5 **Passenger 18-1**: What was fortunate was that this luggage  
6 area came down and it stopped just above my head. And that was  
7 when everything came to a stop. When -- once everything came to a  
8 stop, I remember one person, you know, screaming and saying, get  
9 out, get out, get out.

10 **Passenger 18-2**: Get out, get out of the car. I think and  
11 (indiscernible) --

12 **Passenger 18-1**: All I said was -- I heard -- I said, [REDACTED]  
13 are you okay? Are you alive? And she said, I'm alive, I'm alive,  
14 I'm alive. And that's what I said to my friend [REDACTED]. She also  
15 said I'm alive, I'm alive. And everybody said go to the back of  
16 the train; try and get out of the train at the back. Because we  
17 were so close to it.

18 **Passenger 18-2**: Yeah.

19 **Passenger 18-1**: We were literally, you know --

20 **Passenger 18-2**: The back door, go to the back --

21 **Passenger 18-1**: The back door.

22 **Passenger 18-2**: I thought we were going to go to the back,  
23 back door, straight out the back.

24 **Passenger 18-1**: You mean that second alcove out.

25 DR. BARTH: So you're talking about the end door or a

1 side back door?

2 **Passenger 18-2** : I was, in my mind, to go to the end door. I  
3 tried to get out the end door, some -- couldn't get out the back  
4 door, but I don't know if I couldn't get out because I wasn't  
5 hitting the right button. But this guy had managed to open just  
6 enough --

7 **Passenger 18-1** : The side door.

8 **Passenger 18-2** : -- the side door. It couldn't have been the  
9 foot --

10 **Passenger 18-1** : The normal exit that you would go in and out  
11 of the train through.

12 **Passenger 18-2** : -- a foot wide, 8 inches wide.

13 **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah, he maybe got it open --

14 DR. BARTH: So a man opened the side door. Do you  
15 remember, was it the right or left side of the train?

16 **Passenger 18-1** : Left.

17 **Passenger 18-2** : As you're looking back, the left side.

18 **Passenger 18-1** : As you're looking back.

19 DR. BARTH: So, the right, the --

20 **Passenger 18-1** : Right side looking --

21 DR. BARTH: -- right side forward?

22 **Passenger 18-2** : Forward.

23 DR. BARTH: Okay.

24 **Passenger 18-1** : And he was able to get it open just  
25 enough to -- so that we could sort of shimmy our way, shimmy our

1 way out.

2 **Passenger 18-2** : But I don't -- I can't remember --

3 **Passenger 18-1** : And the problem then was --

4 **Passenger 18-2** : -- were we on the track or were we --

5 **Passenger 18-1** : Oh, no, we were --

6 **Passenger 18-2** : -- (indiscernible) track by then?

7 **Passenger 18-1** : No, we were on the rail then, but it was a

8 big step, needless to say --

9 **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

10 **Passenger 18-1** : -- to get from, from that opening down to

11 the ground.

12 **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

13 DR. BARTH: Okay. Were you -- were you the --

14 (Loudspeaker announcement.)

15 DR. BARTH: Were you -- was that guy that opened the

16 door, the first guy out of that door or were you --

17 **Passenger 18-2** : Yes.

18 DR. BARTH: -- the first?

19 **Passenger 18-1** : No, he -- he was the first guy out.

20 **Passenger 18-2** : He was the first guy and he was helping --

21 DR. BARTH: Okay.

22 **Passenger 18-1** : And he was trying to help people get out.

23 **Passenger 18-2** : Then you got out. That other woman got out.

24 Then you got up and you helped me and [REDACTED] out. Then you went back

25 up.

1           **Passenger 18-1** : No, I couldn't get (indiscernible). I was  
2 going to go back, but I just -- I could tell that I'd really been  
3 injured on the side and I couldn't step up. I couldn't --

4           DR. BARTH: Uh-huh.

5           **Passenger 18-1** : I couldn't use my whole body  
6 (indiscernible) --

7           DR. BARTH: So, approximately how many people -- so you  
8 were probably the second or -- group of people out --

9           **Passenger 18-1** : We were probably the first three or four  
10 people out. We, we quick (indiscernible). Everybody kept saying  
11 move away from the train, move away from the train.

12          **Passenger 18-2** : I think they knew that it was going to --

13          DR. BARTH: About how many were in your train car or how  
14 many came through that door, would you say?

15          **Passenger 18-1** : I would say --

16          **Passenger 18-2** : Fifteen?

17          **Passenger 18-1** : -- 15 or 20.

18          **Passenger 18-2** : Fifteen or 20.

19          DR. BARTH: Okay.

20          **Passenger 18-1** : After us. The rail car was at that point, I  
21 would, I would estimate was leaning --

22          **Passenger 18-2** : Where did those suitcases come from? Did  
23 people just like throw them out the train?

24          **Passenger 18-1** : I have no idea. That's a good question.

25          **Passenger 18-2** : All of a sudden, there were suitcases and

1 they said sit on the suitcases --

2 **Passenger 18-1** : Suitcases sitting sitting outside and we  
3 don't --

4 **Passenger 18-2** : -- because I couldn't --

5 **Passenger 18-1** : -- we have no --

6 DR. BARTH: I wanted to make sure it was still  
7 recording. Okay.

8 **Passenger 18-1** : We have no idea how they got out there.

9 DR. BARTH: So these suitcases, tell me -- you were  
10 saying that there were a bunch of suitcases outside or, or what --

11 **Passenger 18-1** : In fact, we finally --

12 **Passenger 18-2** : Well, they were trying --

13 **Passenger 18-1** : -- we found a place down off of the rail bed  
14 area away from the train.

15 **Passenger 18-2** : And then --

16 **Passenger 18-1** : And somebody said here --

17 **Passenger 18-2** : Watch out for the lines. Watch out for  
18 the --

19 **Passenger 18-1** : [REDACTED] was clearly in a lot more distress  
20 because she was bleeding --

21 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

22 **Passenger 18-2** : A lot. You know, head wounds, it's a lot of  
23 blood.

24 **Passenger 18-1** : So people said -- you know, trying to get  
25 people with a stretcher, you know. But in the meantime, we went



1 and sat -- she sat down on a -- somebody's luggage.

2 **Passenger 18-2** : Somebody identified themselves as a nurse  
3 and they came over.

4 **Passenger 18-1** : So there was this piece of luggage that was  
5 intact --

6 **Passenger 18-2** : She said sit --

7 **Passenger 18-1** : -- that was just sitting there on the rail  
8 bed.

9 DR. BARTH: And was [REDACTED] with you guys? She came out the  
10 door with you guys?

11 **Passenger 18-2** : Yes.

12 **Passenger 18-1** : Oh, we were never apart.

13 **Passenger 18-2** : We --

14 DR. BARTH: Okay.

15 **Passenger 18-2** : -- that's what we kept saying, don't break  
16 up.

17 **Passenger 18-1** : All three of us, we're not going anywhere  
18 without each other.

19 **Passenger 18-2** : Don't -- we're not going anywhere without  
20 each other.

21 DR. BARTH: Okay.

22 **Passenger 18-1** : But the thing -- and because you had asked  
23 what was the angle of the rail car, meaning it was still very much  
24 upright, leaning probably 10 degrees, relative to the level --

25 DR. BARTH: To the -- which side?

1           **Passenger 18-2** : And I think I would have to say it was  
2 leaning --

3           **Passenger 18-2** : To the right --

4           **Passenger 18-1** : To the right.

5           **Passenger 18-2** : -- (indiscernible) --

6           **Passenger 18-1** : It's hard to remember.

7           DR. BARTH: Yeah, we can look at the -- okay, so you got  
8 out of the train, you're getting your bearings outside. What  
9 happened next?

10          **Passenger 18-1** : Everybody, the biggest concern was that  
11 there was -- one big concern --

12          **Passenger 18-2** : Live wires.

13          **Passenger 18-1** : Live wires.

14          DR. BARTH: Okay.

15          **Passenger 18-1** : And everybody said --

16          **Passenger 18-2** : And somebody knew that. I mean, that's  
17 what's amazing --

18          DR. BARTH: Just so you know, people are chaotically  
19 sort of making comments --

20          **Passenger 18-2** : -- that somebody knew that and they said  
21 watch out for the wire, watch out for the wire.

22          **Passenger 18-1** : -- but stay clear of any live wires. At  
23 that point we just sort of hunkered down waiting for -- you know,  
24 looking for somebody to help us. And heard a lot of ambulance --

25          **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah, we could hear ambulance --

1           **Passenger 18-1** : -- noises. There were helicopters by that  
2 time. And people just kept reassuring us, first of all --

3           **Passenger 18-2** : There's help coming.

4           DR. BARTH: So how far away from the train car were you  
5 at this point?

6           **Passenger 18-1** : At this point, I would say --

7           **Passenger 18-2** : Twenty feet?

8           **Passenger 18-1** : It's more than that.

9           **Passenger 18-2** : More than that?

10          **Passenger 18-1** : I would say we are at least 50 feet away  
11 from the car because we climbed down -- there's a back -- bank  
12 (indiscernible) to get away from the rail bed. We were actually  
13 on a weeded --

14          DR. BARTH: Okay.

15          **Passenger 18-1** : -- a weeded area. And we sat there, I would  
16 say, for it seemed like maybe 10 minutes, 5 or 10 minutes.

17          DR. BARTH: Okay.

18          **Passenger 18-2** : Time was so weird.

19          **Passenger 18-1** : And then there was an individual who was --  
20 said, well, there's a nurse. There was a nurse further over. Can  
21 you guys walk over to, you know, get closer? And that took us  
22 even further away from the rail car.

23          DR. BARTH: Okay.

24          **Passenger 18-1** : Now, that (indiscernible) was not --

25          **Passenger 18-2** : Well, he --

1           **Passenger 18-1** : -- not (indiscernible) --

2           **Passenger 18-2** : -- he went up and I went down and my face  
3 just went into the --

4           **Passenger 18-1** : Now, you should -- you haven't told him  
5 how -- what your, your experience was in the car.

6           **Passenger 18-2** : I don't remember. All these things he's  
7 telling you, all I know is -- all I honestly remember is we were  
8 sitting there talking and then my face was in the leg of the chair  
9 two rows in front of us. I went --

10          **Passenger 18-1** : Somehow --

11          **Passenger 18-2** : -- straight down. I just went -- and I  
12 don't know if it's because I'm short or because I was leaning in  
13 to hear ■■■, because she was leaning back and I was leaning in,  
14 and --

15          DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

16          **Passenger 18-2** : The cloud of what I would call smoke because  
17 it --

18          **Passenger 18-1** : Dust.

19          **Passenger 18-2** : -- because it was all black. I don't  
20 remember there being any light at all.

21          **Passenger 18-1** : I can't imagine how --

22          **Passenger 18-2** : But I can remember seeing this cloud of  
23 smoke, which I think is why the woman said, get out of the train,  
24 get out of the train, because maybe to her it looked like smoke.  
25 I would be speculating on that.

1 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

2 **Passenger 18-2**: I really don't remember feeling -- I've been  
3 trying -- you know, somebody from Amtrak, somebody was asking -- I  
4 was racking my brain and I seriously don't remember anything else.

5 **Passenger 18-1**: Okay.

6 DR. BARTH: Okay. Okay, so you're --

7 **Passenger 18-1**: Well, let me make one comment --

8 DR. BARTH: Sure.

9 **Passenger 18-1**: -- a side comment because -- this is when we  
10 got on the train in Baltimore. And I'm not a person that has  
11 premonitions and that's not where I'm going with this. But, you  
12 know, we fly a lot --

13 **Passenger 18-2**: Trust me, he's not a guy that does  
14 premonitions.

15 **Passenger 18-1**: We fly a lot (indiscernible) --

16 **Passenger 18-2**: We love the train though.

17 **Passenger 18-1**: But we love to go on the train. But let's  
18 face it, in the frame of reference that we've all come to learn to  
19 live with is, is the airplane because we --

20 DR. BARTH: Right.

21 **Passenger 18-1**: -- do so much more air travel.

22 Notwithstanding that fact, we actually were on the train a week  
23 earlier --

24 **Passenger 18-2**: Yeah, we went up to Philly for the concert,  
25 (indiscernible) concert.

1           **Passenger 18-1** : -- (indiscernible) and we actually -- only  
2 because it was the only -- also, when we go on the train, we don't  
3 necessarily say, well, we're going to do the Acela. We just want  
4 to get from point A to point B.

5           DR. BARTH: Right.

6           **Passenger 18-1** : But we could only get seats in the business  
7 class on the Acela, and I thought, so this is sort of, this is  
8 first class, I think, on an airplane.

9           DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

10          **Passenger 18-1** : And I noted that among other things  
11 (indiscernible), they have closed luggage compartments.

12          DR. BARTH: On the -- they had closed luggage  
13 compartments --

14          **Passenger 18-1** : No, on the -- I mean on the Acela, on the  
15 Acela train.

16          DR. BARTH: Okay.

17          **Passenger 18-1** : So you can put your luggage in there or your  
18 jacket or whatever, and it was like an airplane. You close this  
19 door and I thought that's really cool. I absolutely made this  
20 observation. When I got on the train that day, I took -- we had  
21 one bag, put it up there, and not only was it not closed, there  
22 was no guard. There was nothing --

23          DR. BARTH: Okay. It was like a luggage shelf?

24          **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

25          **Passenger 18-1** : It was a shelf. There was -- and I thought

1 to myself --

2 **Passenger 18-2** : Just a bungee cord.

3 **Passenger 18-1** : -- if, you know, anything ever happened to  
4 this, this luggage is -- has nothing to keep it up there.

5 DR. BARTH: Right.

6 **Passenger 18-1** : I mean, the rack is at an angle so  
7 it's going to slide down.

8 DR. BARTH: Correct, yeah.

9 **Passenger 18-1** : But if it goes lateral, instead of  
10 forward --

11 DR. BARTH: Yeah.

12 **Passenger 18-1** : And I -- that's strange that I would observe  
13 that.

14 DR. BARTH: Yeah.

15 **Passenger 18-1** : That was something that just caught my --

16 DR. BARTH: Good observation, yeah.

17 **Passenger 18-1** : -- caught my mind, so --

18 DR. BARTH: Okay.

19 **Passenger 18-2** : He's a (indiscernible).

20 **Passenger 18-1** : At any rate --

21 DR. BARTH: So you're waiting -- you walk over to a  
22 woman who's supposed to be a nurse.

23 **Passenger 18-1** : It was hard to walk because, you know, rail  
24 beds have a --

25 **Passenger 18-2** : It was very soft.

1           **Passenger 18-1** : Rail beds --

2           DR. BARTH: Right.

3           **Passenger 18-1** : -- also, you know, they have riff-raff.  
4 It's a gravelly material. And so especially because she was not  
5 steady on her feet -- not that we were, but we were a little bit  
6 better off than [REDACTED]. So we were trying to determine whether it  
7 was a good idea to keep walking or just stay put. Especially, we  
8 were afraid, you know, that she might have a head injury.

9           DR. BARTH: Right.

10          **Passenger 18-2** : And the nurse actually (indiscernible) --

11          **Passenger 18-1** : So we just -- then that's when we came to  
12 the luggage.

13          DR. BARTH: Okay.

14          **Passenger 18-1** : And this person said, just sit -- sit here.  
15 There was maybe three or four people around us, and we just said,  
16 well, we'll wait. And four people came by -- three or four people  
17 came by and said I'll get help, I'll get help, you know, as if  
18 they were going to go find somebody who had a stretcher or --

19          DR. BARTH: Right.

20          **Passenger 18-1** : -- some way to immobilize [REDACTED].

21          DR. BARTH: Okay.

22          **Passenger 18-1** : I would say --

23          **Passenger 18-2** : It wasn't quiet for that long. I mean, once  
24 I got out of the train, it just -- time is weird when something  
25 like this happens. Like --



1 DR. BARTH: Yeah, it's very difficult.

2 Passenger 18-2 : -- he said, it could have been 30 seconds;  
3 it could have been 3 minutes, who knows. But it seemed like  
4 almost --

5 Passenger 18-1 : It didn't seem that long.

6 Passenger 18-2 : Yeah, it just didn't seem very long at  
7 all --

8 Passenger 18-1 : I was so pleased.

9 Passenger 18-2 : -- before we heard the first ambulance  
10 siren. I never heard a more comforting sound.

11 Passenger 18-1 : Yeah.

12 DR. BARTH: So when were you first -- so what happened  
13 next?

14 Passenger 18-1 : What happened next was that, I would say --  
15 let's just say for now, maybe 5 to 10 more minutes --

16 Passenger 18-2 : Yeah.

17 Passenger 18-1 : -- the firemen got there.

18 Passenger 18-2 : Okay.

19 Passenger 18-1 : And at first, there was a little bit of  
20 confusion because it's sort of like, we --

21 Passenger 18-2 : It was dark.

22 Passenger 18-1 : -- we need a --

23 Passenger 18-2 : It was very dark, by the way.

24 Passenger 18-1 : -- we need a stretcher. We need a stretcher  
25 and none of them had that. They had been -- they had spoken among

1 themselves about the possibility of carrying her in a -- some kind  
2 of very special name for it, just kind of carry.

3 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

4 **Passenger 18-1** : And so they contemplated that for a minute  
5 or two and decided --

6 **Passenger 18-2** : Remember, I said I could walk. They went,  
7 no, not with that, you shouldn't -- you should not walk.

8 **Passenger 18-1** : So they contemplated that for a while and  
9 then decided, no. You know, one of them said, I'll -- don't  
10 worry, I'll find where there's a stretcher. So then in a few more  
11 minutes, he came back with about four guys with a stretcher.

12 **Passenger 18-1** : Okay.

13 **Passenger 18-2** : And they strapped her in. I remember they  
14 would not pick her up without strapping her in.

15 DR. BARTH: Did they put a collar on you?

16 **Passenger 18-1** : No.

17 **Passenger 18-2** : Not there, but they --

18 DR. BARTH: Okay.

19 **Passenger 18-2** : Not until we got to the emergency room. I,  
20 I --

21 **Passenger 18-1** : Was there a -- did you have a collar on when  
22 you got in the back of the paddy wagon? I don't think so.

23 **Passenger 18-2** : No, they put it on in emergency.

24 **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah.

25 **Passenger 18-1** : But there was no collar.

1 DR. BARTH: Okay, so they carried you to a --

2 **Passenger 18-1** : And first of all, yeah, we went to sort of a  
3 triage area --

4 DR. BARTH: Okay.

5 **Passenger 18-1** : -- and we sat --

6 DR. BARTH: Did they put a tag on you?

7 **Passenger 18-1** : No.

8 **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah, I --

9 DAUGHTER: Yeah, there's a tag.

10 **Passenger 18-2** : There were tags all over me.

11 DAUGHTER: Mom has a tag. I have it in the room if you  
12 want to see it.

13 **Passenger 18-2** : But I don't know when that happened.

14 **Passenger 18-1** : That wasn't there. That was here at the  
15 hospital.

16 **Passenger 18-2** : I don't know when that happened.

17 DAUGHTER: Oh, her trauma tag? The two of them on her  
18 arm?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Her triage tag --

20 **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah, that was at --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- yeah, that was at the  
22 hospital.

23 **Passenger 18-2** : Triage tag was --

24 DAUGHTER: If you want to see them, I can grab them.

25 DR. BARTH: Yeah, I would, actually.

1 DAUGHTER: Yeah.

2 DR. BARTH: But you don't remember where you got those  
3 tags? Whether they were on scene or at the hospital? Because  
4 they could be from either.

5 **Passenger 18-1** : I'm -- I do not --

6 **Passenger 18-2** : Well, you saw them put me in the --

7 **Passenger 18-1** : So normally when you get a tag, they say,  
8 what's your name, you know, and they give you -- ask for all your  
9 information.

10 **Passenger 18-2** : No, but this doesn't have any information on  
11 it at all. This just has morgue or --

12 DR. BARTH: They usually have like black -- it's like  
13 green, yellow --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, it's a general triage tag.

15 DR. BARTH: -- red, black.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that's what --

17 **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- it's a general triage tag that  
19 they've written off which section they think she's in.

20 **Passenger 18-1** : I may have -- I may have just missed that.

21 **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah. You didn't see those tags.

22 **Passenger 18-1** : But we sat there, and by that point there  
23 was certainly somebody -- when we got to this area where there was  
24 numerous ambulances, there was somebody, quote on quote, "in  
25 charge."

1 DR. BARTH: Okay.

2 **Passenger 18-1**: And somebody saying, okay, this person goes  
3 here. That person goes there.

4 **Passenger 18-2**: I can't, I can't help (indiscernible).

5 **Passenger 18-1**: And what we -- we were very fortunate  
6 because there was another woman who, she --

7 **Passenger 18-2**: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sternum, she had  
8 broken her --

9 **Passenger 18-1**: -- she was concerned that she may have  
10 ruptured her or bruised her sternum, so she was already in -- it  
11 wasn't an ambulance. It was a --

12 **Passenger 18-2**: It was a paddy wagon.

13 **Passenger 18-1**: It was a paddy wagon.

14 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

15 **Passenger 18-1**: And so they put [REDACTED] next to her. It was  
16 just enough room for two stretchers. And [REDACTED] and I said no,  
17 we're going with you. And so they allowed us to --

18 DAUGHTER: I have a feeling she got this.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that has the --

20 DAUGHTER: This has her --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- (indiscernible) --

22 DAUGHTER: And her -- they wrote down what she had and  
23 then she also had this on her.

24 **Passenger 18-1**: This I know came --

25 DR. BARTH: Okay, so --

1           **Passenger 18-1** : -- from the hospital.

2           DAUGHTER: This was from the hospital, but this is  
3 unsure if it was (indiscernible) --

4           DR. BARTH: So yellow tag with a number 2 for [REDACTED]  
5 and then a triage tag --

6           DAUGHTER: This was also hers.

7           DR. BARTH: -- with the green tag moved.

8           **Passenger 18-1** : I'm almost certain that the large triage  
9 tag, the second one you described, was from the hospital because I  
10 had one of those too.

11          DR. BARTH: Okay.

12          **Passenger 18-1** : And I didn't get a tag at the  
13 (indiscernible) --

14          DAUGHTER: This might have been from the ambulance  
15 because they listed them, what you had, and they also say that she  
16 has no past history.

17          **Passenger 18-2** : What does it say?

18          DAUGHTER: It just says minor head injury --

19          **Passenger** E: Oh, okay.

20          DAUGHTER: They marked [REDACTED] and no  
21 past history.

22          DR. BARTH: Okay, great. Okay, so they, they --

23          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) --

24          DR. BARTH: -- they put you on the stretcher in the  
25 paddy wagon with another woman, and then you guys --

1           **Passenger 18-1** : We were allowed to get in there as well.

2           DR. BARTH: Okay.

3           **Passenger 18-1** : We sat sort of up on the side, where  
4 normally you'd have prisoners or whatever would sit.

5           DR. BARTH: Um-hum. And so how many people total were  
6 in the paddy wagon?

7           **Passenger 18-2** : Four.

8           **Passenger 18-1** : Four of us.

9           DR. BARTH: Okay.

10          **Passenger 18-1** : Two patients and --

11          **Passenger 18-2** : And then I lied and --

12          **Passenger 18-1** : When did you lie? To get [REDACTED] in.

13          **Passenger 18-2** : They said only family and I said, but my  
14 sister's out there, my sister -- I couldn't leave our friend. She  
15 didn't have a phone. She was by herself.

16          DR. BARTH: Friends, family.

17          **Passenger 18-2** : And I said --

18          **Passenger 18-1** : So anyway, and they took us --

19          **Passenger 18-2** : So I lied.

20          **Passenger 18-1** : -- very -- I thought it was pretty efficient  
21 to get here. We didn't (indiscernible).

22          DR. BARTH: How was the ride?

23          **Passenger 18-1** : Not good. Well, it was a paddy wagon.

24          **Passenger 18-2** : It's a paddy wagon.

25          DR. BARTH: Okay.

1           **Passenger 18-1** : I mean, you know, the streets are not -- by  
2 not good, I mean --

3           DR. BARTH: It was bumpy?

4           **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah.

5           **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah, but we were here so quick.

6           **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah, it wasn't a long drive.

7           **Passenger 18-2** : There's so much to be thankful for.

8           DR. BARTH: Okay.

9           **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah, yeah, very (indiscernible) --

10          **Passenger 18-2** : There's just --

11          DR. BARTH: So when you arrived at the hospital, what  
12 happened then?

13          **Passenger 18-1** : (Indiscernible) I mean, it was unbelievable  
14 chaos. But at the minute --

15          **Passenger 18-2** : It was controlled chaos.

16          **Passenger 18-1** : It was controlled chaos. That's a good  
17 point.

18          **Passenger 18-2** : People were like so efficient. It's just  
19 the numbers of people and the numbers of staff, but it just --

20          **Passenger 18-1** : What immediately happened was that as soon  
21 as they saw she had a head injury, she was immediately taken into  
22 the trauma center.

23          **Passenger 18-2** : If it bleeds, it bleeds, what can I say?

24          **Passenger 18-1** : Whereas me -- whereas [REDACTED] and I had no  
25 outward signs of trauma except my ear was bleeding.



1 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

2 **Passenger 18-1**: She had no trauma. She had sprained her  
3 wrist.

4 DR. BARTH: Which ear? Your right ear?

5 **Passenger 18-1**: And she -- and you know, there was no notice  
6 of the fact that I had broken my ribs (indiscernible) and I was  
7 like, I was intact, so they immediately delegated us to a green --  
8 (Background conversation.)

9 DR. BARTH: Okay. They --

10 **Passenger 18-1**: They sorted -- separated us out.

11 DR. BARTH: Okay.

12 **Passenger 18-1**: And said, okay, you guys go over there. I  
13 was a little reluctant. She wanted me to be with her, but I  
14 understood she was in good hands so I just said, let it go.

15 DR. BARTH: Okay.

16 **Passenger 18-1**: And then the only other -- the only part of  
17 it that really -- if I had to be critical of what happened in the  
18 hospital, the only part was what then happened to [REDACTED]. Because  
19 [REDACTED] was with me. And that was that they said, well, here, come  
20 over here. And they put us in this room, this waiting area that  
21 was, I would say, two rooms removed from where the -- sort of the  
22 nerve center of things, meaning where all the activity is going  
23 on.

24 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

25 **Passenger 18-1**: And we sat there. They got us to -- there

1 were two -- you know, I don't know what their qualifications were.  
2 I call them day nurses or something because, you know, they did  
3 fill out the trauma tags. And then they said -- █████ said, after  
4 we waited for a while, she said, well, do you have any ice?

5 DR. BARTH: Any what?

6 Passenger 18-1 : Ice.

7 Passenger 18-2 : Ice.

8 DR. BARTH: Ice, yeah, okay.

9 Passenger 18-1 : To put on my wrist. And --

10 DR. BARTH: Which wrist of hers was hurting?

11 Passenger 18-2 : Her left.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was her left.

13 Passenger 18-2 : Her left.

14 DR. BARTH: Okay.

15 Passenger 18-1 : And so, you know, these two -- first we  
16 wanted water. So the lady said, yeah, we can get you some water.  
17 They went in the back room, you know, through a door somewhere.  
18 It seemed like 5 minutes to get us two glasses of water. Then she  
19 came -- they came back. And then after we sat around some more,  
20 that's when █████ said, can I get some ice for my wrist? And  
21 another 5 minutes went by. And I was just, you know, I was trying  
22 to just hang in. And then finally █████ said, look, I think he's  
23 sort of hurt. Because my shoulder was bad. She said, can you get  
24 him some ice too? So then they got me some ice. Finally, when --  
25 █████ is much more A type than I am. She at that point went, I'm

1 going to go find out where [REDACTED] is. And I'm not sure -- you can  
2 get it, get the words from her if you interview her, because she  
3 just basically said to me, a little bit later on, she goes, I was  
4 tired of sitting there and not getting anybody paying attention to  
5 me.

6 DR. BARTH: Right.

7 **Passenger 18-1**: And I figured if I just made a nuisance of  
8 myself that somebody would then address me.

9 DR. BARTH: Right.

10 **Passenger 18-1**: And so she said that and then I just went  
11 with her. And that's when they looked at us and said, has anybody  
12 seen you? I said, we have our tags. What's wrong with you?  
13 What's wrong with you? And then in a minute, well, then we're  
14 going to give you x-rays right away. So we just -- it's like  
15 there was a ramp-up of information. They put us in where -- with  
16 a bunch of other people right in this immediate area and they  
17 had --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were you standing with --

19 DR. BARTH: So who -- when you initially were checked  
20 on, the first medical person who checked on you was -- or like, at  
21 that triage area on scene, before they put you in the paddy wagon,  
22 do you remember if that was a -- was it a medical person, a  
23 firefighter, or a police officer?

24 **Passenger 18-1**: It was a firefighter.

25 DR. BARTH: A firefighter.

1           **Passenger 18-1** : And there was this woman who said I'm a  
2 nurse.

3           **Passenger 18-2** : I thought they were police officers who  
4 carried me, [REDACTED]. She was just on the train --

5           **Passenger 18-1** : She was just on the train.

6           **Passenger 18-2** : -- with her son, [REDACTED].

7           DR. BARTH: Okay. And then once you got out of the --  
8 into the waiting area at the hospital, it was a nurse who tagged  
9 you --

10          **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

11          **Passenger 18-1** : Yes.

12          DR. BARTH: And they tagged you based on the description  
13 of your injuries.

14          **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah.

15          DR. BARTH: And then, and then when you went and asked  
16 for more -- for ice and such, then that's when they made the  
17 decision to do some x-rays?

18          **Passenger 18-1** : Right.

19          DR. BARTH: Okay.

20          **Passenger 18-1** : They put us among these other patients,  
21 saying, well, we need to check and get you some x-rays if you --  
22 if you feel like you've got some problems with your shoulder.

23          DR. BARTH: Right.

24          **Passenger 18-1** : And from that point on, then we were  
25 formerly in some kind of, some kind of queue.

1 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

2 **Passenger 18-1**: And things happened very quickly. What  
3 happened the most --

4 **Passenger 18-2**: And you were standing up; you weren't on  
5 gurneys or anything, were you?

6 **Passenger 18-1**: No, no. We were sitting in chairs at the  
7 (indiscernible).

8 DR. BARTH: Okay. And then so what -- so can you give  
9 me just a short description of each of your injuries, like what,  
10 you know, what injures you sustained?

11 **Passenger 18-1**: Well, when I -- when I sat there, they --  
12 everything was sort of very -- in the green area, if you will. I  
13 wasn't in a -- they weren't in a hurry at all until they took the  
14 x-rays and they said you have three broken ribs, come with us  
15 right now. And then all hell broke loose.

16 DR. BARTH: Do you remember --

17 **Passenger 18-1**: Took me into the trauma area and they put me  
18 on a gurney as fast as they possibly could and they cut my clothes  
19 off.

20 DR. BARTH: Which side of your body are the ribs broken,  
21 are the ribs broken?

22 **Passenger 18-1**: Right.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: His right.

24 DR. BARTH: Right aft -- back side?

25 **Passenger 18-1**: And my shoulder is either dislocated or

1 something here. There's no broken bones. But the minute that  
2 they said -- because they said you could have a (indiscernible)  
3 thorax, you could, you know, have a punctured lung, a whole  
4 variety of other things.

5 DR. BARTH: Okay.

6 **Passenger 18-1**: And so from that point on, I mean, I was in  
7 somebody else's hands. They were around me, you know, like, like  
8 you see on TV, you know, TV programs. There was like six or seven  
9 guys --

10 DR. BARTH: Um-hum.

11 **Passenger 18-1**: -- you know, around me, and they had my  
12 clothes off of me (indiscernible).

13 DR. BARTH: So you had a right shoulder injury, right  
14 ear laceration, three broken ribs --

15 **Passenger 18-1**: So they -- and they were doing -- it's like,  
16 everybody had their own -- one guy, his whole role was to check my  
17 legs and check my ankles and do this, do that. You know, check my  
18 groin, you know, that -- there was another guy who, you know,  
19 right away was, you know, doing something else. It was just -- it  
20 was so well orchestrated at that point.

21 DR. BARTH: Okay. And then your injuries? And then --  
22 it's obvious --

23 **Passenger 18-2**: A gash right here in my head and my eye.  
24 Strangely enough -- I thought I had broken my hip. Apparently,  
25 it's just a huge contusion, a severe, severe whatever they call

1 it. It's just --

2 DR. BARTH: The back of your hip or the forward part?

3 **Passenger 18-2**: The back. The back of the --

4 DR. BARTH: Okay.

5 **Passenger 18-2**: -- hip.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

7 DR. BARTH: Left. Okay? All right.

8 **Passenger 18-1**: And so what happened when they took you  
9 through the, through the doors? Because she was on a gurney.  
10 They --

11 **Passenger 18-2**: They cut off my brand new clothes.

12 **Passenger 18-1**: Is it -- as soon as she got there, she --  
13 she was still on this, on this stretcher.

14 **Passenger 18-2**: (Indiscernible) said, and I'm like, do you  
15 know how long it took me to pick out this outfit, I said to the  
16 doctor.

17 **Passenger 18-1**: And then she got out of the, out of the  
18 paddy wagon.

19 DR. BARTH: Right.

20 **Passenger 18-1**: And they immediately put her on a, you know,  
21 a real gurney.

22 **Passenger 18-2**: Um-hum. I think as soon as they saw the  
23 head injury --

24 DR. BARTH: And this is when they put a C -- is this  
25 when they put a C-spine on you?

1           **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah. Yeah. I think the head injury, they  
2 figured if I hit my head --

3           **Passenger 18-1** : They did that to me too.

4           **Passenger 18-2** : -- their thought was that it could also  
5 (indiscernible) --

6           **Passenger 18-1** : The minute that I got put into the trauma  
7 area --

8           **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

9           **Passenger 18-1** : -- I got a collar.

10          DR. BARTH: Right.

11          **Passenger 18-1** : Even though I said there's nothing wrong,  
12 they --

13          **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah. And --

14          **Passenger 18-1** : -- put the collar on.

15          **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah, and I said, yeah --

16          **Passenger 18-1** : There was no negotiating anything about  
17 that.

18          DR. BARTH: Right. Okay. I think --

19          **Passenger 18-1** : One more thing that I thought about.

20          DR. BARTH: Yeah.

21          **Passenger 18-1** : And that was sort of interesting. And I  
22 (indiscernible), I'm just trying to put the pieces of the puzzle  
23 together. When I got outside the train, my pants were gone. Like  
24 this was ripped all the way down to here, this whole section of my  
25 pants were completely missing.



1           **Passenger 18-2** : I never even noticed that.

2           **Passenger 18-1** : All I -- you know, [REDACTED] was, you know, giving  
3 me a hard time. She said, oh, sporting black boxers tonight, or  
4 something like that, trying to make light, you know. And --

5           **Passenger 18-2** : Which I never even noticed.

6           **Passenger 18-1** : -- and there -- I do have a contusion. It's  
7 not bleeding. It's just a surface wound.

8           DR. BARTH: Uh-huh.

9           **Passenger 18-1** : So clearly what happened, when I got  
10 launched forward --

11          **Passenger 18-2** : It must have caught on the --

12          **Passenger** : -- it caught on something. Probably my  
13 pocket maybe.

14          DR. BARTH: So contusion right upper thigh for [REDACTED].

15          **Passenger 18-1** : And it must have -- you know, something  
16 protruding must have caught my pocket is all I can think of.

17          **Passenger 18-2** : Yeah.

18          **Passenger 18-1** : And basically just took this whole part of  
19 my pants away. And the pocket's gone, everything, you know.

20          DR. BARTH: Am I in your way?

21          **Passenger 18-2** : I was just wondering if it was getting off  
22 the train, the way you were trying to --

23          **Passenger 18-1** : No.

24          **Passenger 18-2** : -- get through that hole.

25          **Passenger 18-1** : Because I remember feeling when I -- you

1 know, in hindsight, when I got up, I felt, wow, there's a lot of  
2 air -- a lot of draft here.

3 **Passenger 18-2** : Whoops. Maybe you should --

4 DR. BARTH: Am I in your way?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

6 DR. BARTH: Okay.

7 **Passenger 18-1** : So there must have been something that  
8 protruded somewhere on, you know, from ground level up to 12  
9 inches that, that --

10 DR. BARTH: That caught your pocket and tore your pants  
11 off?

12 **Passenger 18-1** : Yeah.

13 DR. BARTH: Okay. Okay, I'm going to stop --

14 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Passenger 18-1 and Passenger 18-2

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE: May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Telephone Interview of: **Passenger 21**

Saturday,  
May 16, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: GENA EVANS  
Accident Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

GENA EVANS, Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Telephone Interview of **Passenger 21** :

By Ms. Evans

4

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MS. EVANS: Okay, here we go. Okay, Passenger 21, could  
3 I have your date of birth please?

4 Passenger 21: Yes, .

5 MS. EVANS: Okay, great. And also, it's kind of a  
6 personal question, but could you just give me your approximate  
7 height and weight, nothing --

8 Passenger 21: Yeah, yeah, I'm not -- I'm ,  
9 and .

INTERVIEW OF Passenger 21

10  
11 BY MS. EVANS:

12 Q. Okay, great. And anyway, if you could just maybe start  
13 from the beginning and start with when you got on the train and  
14 where you got on the train, and then just go on from there and  
15 tell me your story.

16 A. Yeah. So I was I, I was coming from -- so I boarded the  
17 train in Washington and I was headed to New York, Penn Station,  
18 because I had a meeting the next day in New York so I was spending  
19 the night there. But I'm originally -- I live in Philadelphia.  
20 I'm a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

21 And so, basically the accident occurred, as you know,  
22 just outside of Philadelphia. So we had just left Philadelphia  
23 station and maybe 15 minutes later -- I think it was about 9:30 --  
24 I was on the phone with a friend and I had my laptop on my knees  
25 because I working. And the whole thing happened in less than 5

1 seconds. I mean, all I could remember is that the train just  
2 started shaking very, very violently. Then the lights went off  
3 and then the next thing I was, you know, just sliding in the  
4 cabin, you know. And I don't remember what I was hitting, but I'm  
5 sure that I hit many things. And eventually when the train came  
6 to a stop, I was hanging on the railing of the luggage  
7 compartment. So my head was basically touching the ceiling.

8           And so after that, when I let go, there was a lot of  
9 chaos. I mean, passengers, you know, were distraught, many were  
10 screaming. There was at first a lot of smoke inside the train so  
11 I was afraid that, you know, we would suffocate. But then luckily  
12 there wasn't any fire and the back door had slightly -- you know,  
13 because of the impact, it had slightly slid open and there was a  
14 narrow gap.

15           Q. Oh, there was a smell of gas?

16           A. Sorry? No, no, no. No, there was no smell of gas. I  
17 mean, the smoke dissipated at like less than -- less than a minute  
18 there was no smoke anymore.

19           Q. Okay.

20           A. So it must have been a dust, maybe, I don't know. But  
21 so, there was this narrow gap at the back door, which we managed  
22 to smuggle ourselves out of. And then the -- well, the conductor  
23 or the guy, you know, who verifies the tickets, then opened the  
24 back door, you know, the bigger door. And that's where -- when,  
25 you know, the passengers started coming out. And because I was



1 relatively okay, so I started helping, you know, the passengers  
2 get down and like, I mean, it was a scene of chaos. There were  
3 lots of injured people. But then I just wanted to go back in to  
4 try and save what I could from my luggage.

5           So I went back inside. I found my suitcase, which was  
6 still in the compartment, so I took that. And I took -- I had a  
7 black, a briefcase, which I also found. I couldn't find my phone  
8 or my computer. I mean, I tried looking for them. But again, I  
9 mean, the wagon itself was, you know, completely under chaos.

10           The seats themselves were pulled out of their location  
11 because of the impact and so it was very hard to find anything.  
12 So I just let it go and, you know, just took my suitcase and my  
13 briefcase and went back outside. And then at that time, the  
14 police came. We started hearing, you know, police sirens. Then  
15 the police came and then, you know, they asked us to move aside  
16 and they took it over from there. Yeah.

17           Q. Okay. Now, if you could refresh my memory, which car  
18 were you in? Were you in the last car?

19           A. I was in the last car, yeah, the last one.

20           Q. Okay, and --

21           A. I was the maybe the last three rows, like I think the  
22 third row from behind. Yeah.

23           Q. Okay, and were you on the aisle or were you in -- by a  
24 window?

25           A. At the time I was sitting on the aisle, yes.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. The seat next to me was empty; there was no one there.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. All right. And also, did you sustain any injuries? It  
6 sounds like you're relatively okay, but what injuries did you  
7 sustain?

8 A. Yeah, I mean, I was, again, relatively compared to the  
9 other passengers that I saw, I mean, I was fine. I just had a  
10 scratch on my back. I think it was like a small, a burn. And  
11 then I had a few sore muscles because of the impact or, you know,  
12 the things that I hit. And so when I got -- I went to the  
13 hospital after that just to make sure that I didn't have anything  
14 broken. But it turned out that I had nothing broken, it's just  
15 sore muscles.

16 Q. Okay. Now did you go to the hospital on your own or did  
17 you go in an ambulance?

18 A. Yeah, so because what happened is that as we were  
19 waiting, they brought in special buses for the passengers who  
20 needed to go to the hospital. But I was relatively okay, so I  
21 didn't want to go at the time. And because I was a student at the  
22 University of Pennsylvania, I said to myself that, you know --  
23 because I had contacted my friends who were going to pick me up,  
24 so I said to myself that when that happens, I would go and get a  
25 check-up on my own at the university.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Which I did.

3 Q. Okay. Now, before the trip, when you got on the  
4 train --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- were there any safety announcements? Did they  
7 mention anything about emergency doors, emergency windows?

8 A. No, not at all.

9 Q. Okay. And then also, were there any sort of pamphlets  
10 with safety instructions in the seats that you can recall, in the  
11 seat backs?

12 A. I'm really not sure.

13 Q. Okay. And --

14 A. Because I didn't really look, so I can't tell.

15 Q. Okay. And you said that the power went off or the  
16 lights went off --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- right on impact.

19 A. Yeah, the lights went off, yes.

20 Q. Did it stay off or did any sort of emergency lights or  
21 safety lights come on?

22 A. That's a good point. I don't remember if any safety  
23 lights turned on because there was a lot of smoke. So I was --  
24 and plus, I mean, I was a bit, you know -- I wasn't really focused  
25 after the impact. It was all very chaotic, so I didn't really pay

1 attention. But, yeah, the lights went off. And it all happened  
2 within, you know, a split of a second.

3 Q. Okay. And now with the seats and the luggage -- did the  
4 seats stay on the ground?

5 A. No. No, no, no. The seats were like pulled out.

6 Q. Okay. And then how about the luggage racks? Did they  
7 stay up?

8 A. Some of them were still up and then others were -- you  
9 know, had fallen completely off, yeah.

10 Q. Okay. And how about with the emergency windows, did you  
11 guys --

12 A. Shattered.

13 Q. -- open them or they shattered? Okay.

14 A. No. No, no, no. They were still intact. We didn't  
15 need to open them because the back door was open and then we  
16 managed to open the bigger one.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. So we didn't make use of the windows as exits.

19 Q. Okay, and let's see, is there anything else that you  
20 would like to add?

21 A. No, that's it.

22 Q. Well, thank you so much for talking with me today. If  
23 there is --

24 A. Sure.

25 Q. -- anything that you would like to add, please feel free

1 to give me a call.

2 A. Sure.

3 Q. My number is [REDACTED] --

4 A. Which is this one that you called me --

5 Q. Yes, yes.

6 A. Okay, sure. Can you just please remind me your name?

7 Q. Okay. Yes, my name's Gena, G-E-N-A.

8 A. Gena, okay.

9 Q. Last name Evans, E-V-A-N-S.

10 A. Evans, okay. Okay, great.

11 Q. Well, thank you again --

12 A. I just wanted to make sure I (indiscernible).

13 Q. -- thank you again for speaking with me. I really

14 appreciate it and --

15 A. Sure. Anything I can do to help.

16 Q. Well, we appreciate it. Thank you very much.

17 A. Thank you very much.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. Have a good day.

20 Q. You too, bye-bye.

21 A. Bye, bye.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Telephone Interview of **Passenger 21**

DOCKET NUMBER:           DCA-15-MR-010

PLACE:

DATE:                        May 16, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

Kristi Lewnes  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
MAY 12, 2015

Docket No.: DCA-15-MR-010

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: **Passenger 22**

Temple Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday,  
May 14, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: RONALD KAMINSKI  
Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board



I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of **Passenger 22** :

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Today's date is May 14th. I'm  
3 here at Temple Hospital with **Passenger 22**. Spell his -- last  
4 name is **Passenger 22**. He is the husband of **[REDACTED]**  
5 (ph.). And **Passenger 22** going to give us a description of  
6 what he recalls and what all happened in the crash.

INTERVIEW OF **Passenger 22**

8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. Go ahead, sir.

10 A. Well, we arrived at Union Station. The first thing I  
11 should note is the train was delayed. I'm not sure exactly how  
12 long, but it seemed to be about 20 minutes. Once we got on the  
13 train, they had no electricity and the AC wasn't working and they  
14 said that there was a problem with the electrics. They said that  
15 the AC would kick on as soon as they got started and that it  
16 was -- it would -- fully charges after a certain -- half an hour  
17 because there's a delay --

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. -- in getting all the heat out. So one, it was delayed,  
20 and two, there was a problem with the electrics.

21 The train, it seemed to be going a little faster than  
22 usual. We've taken it quite a lot up and back from New York to  
23 D.C. But, you know, I had music on and stuff like that so I  
24 wasn't really nervous of it going faster than usual. Then we got  
25 to the point where the train came off, and on the curve like --

1 and [REDACTED] said it too, my wife said it too -- like it felt like we  
2 were going really fast. (Indiscernible) built-up area on a curve,  
3 like, what? We got nervous and then it just came off the track.

4 My wife [REDACTED] was by the window and I was sitting beside  
5 her. And so the window that she would ordinarily look out of,  
6 that became the floor of the train, and --

7 Q. So it flipped on its right side, because you guys were  
8 seated on the right side of the train?

9 A. Correct. So that section became the floor. And then  
10 once it fell over, you know, and stopped moving, we checked each  
11 other, we looked around, we got our bearings, we were  
12 discombobulated, we were frightful of it -- of there being a fire.  
13 There was a lot of soot and smoke and friction burn in the  
14 carriage. We were scrambling to see how we could get out. The  
15 other windows had become the roof, so we were, you know, climbing  
16 up to find the window that we could open to climb out of.

17 Q. The emergency exit window?

18 A. The emergency exit window. There was no internal  
19 sprinkler and there was no electric lighting that came on, which  
20 would have helped, but that wasn't there. We -- some people  
21 started climbing out. People who had been trapped under chairs  
22 and stuff, I had asked some other people to help us get them out  
23 from under the chairs and get them out through the roof. [REDACTED] had  
24 been in a lot of pain and we got her up and we managed to pull her  
25 up. She couldn't stand up, so we pulled her up and got her out

1 through the roof. Then we got her on the roof.

2 Q. Which is really the side of the passenger, the left side  
3 of the --

4 A. Left-hand side.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Yes. Thank you. Yes.

7 Once we got up there, I stayed with [REDACTED]. The emergency  
8 services started to arrive. Most people -- those who could climb  
9 off, climbed off and went to a safe area. I was in the safe area.  
10 Some people talking about fire, like there was a fire that had  
11 happened, but I didn't see any fire but it smelled like there was  
12 a fire.

13 Q. Um-hum.

14 A. The fire was the friction --

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. -- I would guess.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. The fire services arrived. I became a squeaky wheel  
19 because I wanted to be -- make sure [REDACTED] had a stretcher, had a  
20 ladder to get us both off.

21 Q. That's what a good husband does.

22 A. Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: That's right. He was definitely --

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: -- (indiscernible).

1           **Passenger 22** : The fire services were terrific. The  
2 cops were terrific. They helped. They got a stretcher. They --  
3 we all got cleared off. We got her like clear of the wreckage  
4 area out to where the medics are. And then there, we were sort of  
5 in a very chaotic queue, like line. There was like a list based  
6 on need. Others were less fortunate than  and I, so they went  
7 first.

8           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9           Q.    Um-hum.

10          A.    So that was fine. Again, I was just like trying to make  
11 sure that, you know, we got  out of there, so I was -- we  
12 finally got out of there. I'm not sure who they were, they looked  
13 like they were like police, but a different kind of police.  
14 Anyway, they -- we took , we put her in what was -- it looked  
15 like a paddywagon, is that what they call it here?

16          Q.    Yeah.

17          A.    And so there was two stretchers and  was in one.  
18 There was another guy who couldn't breathe. He was laying right  
19 beside . And the driver, I mean, you know, I'll give him  
20 credit, he totally nailed it. He drove really fast. But he was  
21 driving too fast because he wasn't in an ambulance and  wasn't  
22 secure in the back paddywagon so we were bumping around a bit.  
23 But that -- I mean, I get it. That's fine.

24                   And then we arrived at the hospital and we're very happy  
25 to be here, and from then on we've just been in really good hands.

1 Q. Okay. And what types of injuries did you sustain?

2 Bumps, bruises, scrapes?

3 A. I had taken my shoes off in the train, so I wasn't  
4 wearing shoes, so my -- I have cuts on my feet and stuff.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. My right calf is badly bruised and the muscle's got like  
7 a big cut with the back right here. My right thigh is kind of  
8 badly beat up and bruised, same for the right arm. The elbow is  
9 very tender -- both elbows are very tender. My back got twisted  
10 when the impact happened. When the carriage fell over, I got like  
11 twisted up, so my back's very sore. I just got like a shot for  
12 it, so it's a little looser now, thankfully. But I'm getting like  
13 recurring back spasms. It's really sore for me to stand up and  
14 sit down, bend over. And I'm also in shock. I can feel myself --  
15 like, I'm not processing information --

16 Q. Um-hum.

17 A. -- as well as I usually do and all that.

18 Q. Sure. That's a traumatic experience.

19 A. That's a traumatic experience. And so --

20 Q. You're doing pretty good though.

21 A. I'm doing very well. Yeah, I was --

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. -- I was lucky enough. So -- I'm just thinking if  
24 there's anything else you should know. Just like little cuts  
25 right here, you know.

1 Q. Okay. Small little cuts and bruises.

2 A. I've got a few of those --

3 Q. Sure.

4 A. -- on both sides of my (indiscernible). And my back's  
5 got sort of, a couple of these, but are much, much, bigger.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. But it's like -- it's more superficial I think. I'm not  
8 sure.

9 Q. So you -- when you guys rolled over, you still remained  
10 in that seat next to your wife; you weren't thrown forward, do you  
11 recall?

12 A. I was -- yeah, we ended up -- we were thrown because the  
13 train inverted, so we got thrown. █████ ended up under a seat. I  
14 don't know how that happened. And --

15 █████: I think it was from the other side of the  
16 aisle.

17 Passenger 22 █████: Like, the other side of the -- like it  
18 came down.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, the other seat fell, fell off on you?

20 █████: Um-hum.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

22 Passenger 22 █████: I think so. So █████ was under that and  
23 we pulled that off her. So we -- like seatbelts would have really  
24 helped, no question about it.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Um-hum.

1           **Passenger 22** : And there wasn't seatbelts. There  
2 should be. We -- no, we were roughly in the same area, but we  
3 weren't secured.

4           BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5           Q. Right, okay.

6           A. Yeah, yeah.

7           Q. And do you remember --  said you guys were on the  
8 right side. About how many -- four or five rows back, or how  
9 many --

10          A. Yeah, we were --

11          Q. And you guys were just forward of the cafe car?

12          A. I don't know if we were forward of it or behind it. I  
13 can't remember. I didn't note the cafe car --

14          Q. Okay.

15          A. -- at all and we didn't use it.

16          Q. Okay.

17          A. We were about three or four -- three coaches back from  
18 the front of the train.

19          Q. Okay.

20          A. Maybe check the reservation -- oh, here. Anyway, we  
21 were three back from the front of the train, but I'm not sure if  
22 we were in front of the cafe car or not.

23          Q. Okay. And about how many rows from the front or from  
24 the back, do you recall?

25          A. There was like five or six rows. Then there was like --



1 Q. From the back?

2 A. -- a restroom area. So, we were here, it was like five  
3 or six rows, then there was a restroom.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And then I think it was -- you know, we didn't look  
6 behind it. I'm not sure how many behind, if I'm honest.

7 [REDACTED]: We were more towards the front.

8 Passenger 22 [REDACTED]: More towards the front of that coach.

9 [REDACTED]: Of that car.

10 Passenger 22 [REDACTED]: Car or whatever.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So five or six rows behind  
12 restroom.

13 [REDACTED]: Yes.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay. That concludes the  
15 interview here at approximately 1:25.

16 (Whereupon, at 1:25 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           AMTRAK TRAIN 188 DERAILMENT NEAR  
                                  PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
                                  MAY 12, 2015  
                                  Interview of **Passenger 22**

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PLACE:                      Philadelphia, PA

DATE:                        May 14, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

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Chelsea Baranoski  
Transcriber