



**SURVIVAL FACTORS – HIGHWAY GROUP CHAIRMAN’S  
FACTUAL REPORT**

**ATTACHEMENT 8: MTAPD WITNESS STATEMENT OCTOBER 1984**

**Valhalla, NY**

**DCA15MH006**

**(5 pages)**

Statement Started, 1600HRS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT  
Statement Ended, 1655HRS. (NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, [redacted] am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to Detective [redacted] MN-PD Sh.#106. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

I am 44 years of age, and I live at [redacted]

Q. For the record would you please state your full name, present occupation, number of years with this employer, and employee identification number.?

A. My name is [redacted] I am employed by the Metro North Commuter Railroad, New York City, N.Y., I am employed as an Engineer, I have been an Engineer for the Railroad for the past 25 years. My employee identification number is ( 702443).

Q. Mr. [redacted] are all the Statements you are about to give the truth to the best of your knowledge and belief, and are you giving these Statements of your own free will with no promises being made against you.?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. [redacted] In your words can you please tell me what happned on 10/10/84 at approximately 6:05PM, and what you were doing.?

A. I was the Engineer on Metro North Commuter Train.# 963.

Q. Mr. [redacted] what time did Metro North Commuter Train.#963 depart Grand Central Terminal, New York City N.Y.?

A. Train.# 963 departed Grand Central Terminal, New York City, N.Y. at approximately 5:23PM,

Q. Mr. [redacted] where was Train.# 963 in route to.?

A. To Brewster New York.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 4 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at [redacted] this 11 day of October 19 84

Date October 11, 1984 Page No. 2

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED]

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] Did the Train.#963, consist of Electric Commuter Cars.?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] how many Commuter Cars were on this Train.#963.?

A. There were (8) Commuter Cars on this Train.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] can you tell me the number of these Commuter Cars.

A. Yes, the Head Car was Car.# 8298, Second Car was 8299, the rest of the cars on the Train (963) are as follows, 8215, 8214, 8216, 8217, 8268, and the end car was 8269.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] was the Equipment on Train.# 963, checked prior to leaving Grand Central Terminal to Brewster New York, on this date 10/11/84.

A. Yes it was.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] can you tell me what happned while you were in route to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Brewster, New York.?

A. Yes, at approximately 6:08PM, 10/11/84, I was driving Train.#963 north on Track.1, and was approaching the Commerce Street Crossing, in the Hamlet of Hawthorne. As I approched the Crossing , I sounded the Train horn on Train.#963, as per regulations, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ approximately 100Ft. from the Crossing I observed a Van approaching the Crossing from the West, The Van was approaching the Crossing at a High R-ate of Speed, the Van did not appear to be slowing down; I could see the "Red warning lights" operating at the Crossing, I then realized that the Van was not going to slow down, and was going to try to beat the Train.(963) to the Crossing, I put the Train into the Emergency ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ brakeing mode, but was unable to stop prior to hitting the Van. [REDACTED]

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] how fast were you going in Train #963 at the time of the accident [REDACTED]

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STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was going approximately 40 to 45 MPH.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] was the Equipment on Train.#963 working properly during your trip up untill the time of the accident.

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] how long did it take you to stop Train.#963 after you hit the Van.?

A. In the Emergency Mode , I was able to stop the Train approximately 2/10 of a mile after hitting the Van.

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] what was the last stop you made in Train .963 prior to the accident.

A. Valhalla, New York.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] was Train .963 running on time.

A. a Few minuteds late.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] Were you doing the proper speed for that area where the accident occured.

A. Yes I was.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] do you have any thing further to add to this Statement.?

A. Yes, Metro North Police have a witness who was in the front head Car of Train .#963 and saw the whole accident, This Person has given a Statement to the Metro North Detectives.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] is that all you would like to add to this Statement.

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] would you be willing to take a Polygraph Examination.?

A. Yes. [REDACTED]

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STATEMENT OF; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] are all the Statements you have just made the Truth to the best of your knowledge and belief, and did you give this Statement of your own free will with no promises ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ [REDACTED] ~~XX~~ Threats being made against you.

A. yes.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] I want to advise you that any false Statements made in this Statement are punishable as a Class A Misdemoner, Pursaunt to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law. Do you Understand.?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. [REDACTED] You have just read the foregoing Statement, consisting of (4) Pages, and placed your inatials near the errors, Do you swear that this Statement is true and Correct to the best of your knowledge and belief.

A. Yes.

[REDACTED] XXXXXXXX [REDACTED] XX

Witness. [REDACTED]

Voluntary Statement.

Witness. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]