

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

\*

CAPSIZING/SINKING OF THE *GOLDEN*  
RAY IN THE BRUNSWICK RIVER,  
GEORGIA, ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

\*

Accident No.: DCA19FM048

\*

\*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: GUNJIN LEE  
Deck Cadet

Tuesday,  
September 10, 2019

## APPEARANCES:

DAVID FLAHERTY, Marine Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

CARRIE BELL, Marine Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

LEE WILLETT, Investigator  
United States Coast Guard

LES LEDET, Investigator  
United States Coast Guard

MARC DeJESUS, Investigator  
United States Coast Guard

LCDR [REDACTED] Investigator  
United States Coast Guard

[REDACTED]  
District 7 Legal  
United States Coast Guard

TOM BREMER, Maritime Administrator  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

JIM MOSELEY, Attorney  
(On behalf of the *Golden Ray* and P&I Club)

COLIN McRAE, Attorney  
RAY JORDON, Attorney  
(On behalf of slot charterers)

RYAN GILSENAN, Attorney  
(On behalf of the Brunswick Pilots)

JOHN OSSICK, Attorney  
(On behalf of ship's officers)

STEPHANIE AMIOTTE McDONALD, Attorney  
(On behalf of ship's crew and officer)

GRACE MIN, Interpreter

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Gunjin Lee:		
By Mr. Willett		5
By Mr. Flaherty		9

I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 MR. FLAHERTY: All right. This is David Flaherty with the  
3 National Transportation Safety Board. This is an interview for  
4 the investigation into the Golden Ray marine casualty. Today is  
5 10 September 2019.

6 Sir, if you could please state your name?

7 MR. LEE: My name is Gunjin Lee and it's spelled L-e-e.

8 MR. FLAHERTY: Thank you very much. Do I have your  
9 permission to record this interview for the investigation?

10 MR. LEE: Yeah.

11 MR. FLAHERTY: Thank you. If you could introduce yourself,  
12 please?

13 MS. MIN: My name is Grace Min, M-i-n.

14 MR. FLAHERTY: And you are serving as?

15 MS. MIN: As an interpreter.

16 MR. FLAHERTY: Thank you.

17 MS. AMIOTTE McDONALD: Stephanie Amiotte McDonald,  
18 A-m-i-o-t-t-e M-c-D-o-n-a-l-d, attorney for the Cadet Lee.

19 MR. WILLETT: Lee Willett, investigator for the U.S. Coast  
20 Guard, W-i-l-l-e-t-t.

21 MR. LEDET: Les Ledet, investigator with the U.S. Coast  
22 Guard, L-e-d-e-t.

23 MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, investigator, NTSB.

24 LT [REDACTED]: Lieutenant [REDACTED], [REDACTED], U.S. Coast Guard,  
25 District 7 legal.

1 MR. DeJESUS: Marc DeJesus, U.S. Coast Guard, D-e-J-e-s-u-s.

2 MR. McRAE: Colin McRae, attorney for the Slot Charter,  
3 M-c-R-a-e.

4 MR. BREMER: Tom Bremer, B-r-e-m-e-r, Republic of the  
5 Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator.

6 MR. OSSICK: John Ossick, O-s-s-i-c-k, attorney for the  
7 officers.

8 MR. MOSELEY: Jim Moseley, Jr. for the vessel interest,  
9 M-o-s-e-l-e-y.

10 MR. GILSENAN: Ryan Gilsenan, counsel for the pilots,  
11 G-i-l-s-e-n-a-n.

12 LCDR [REDACTED]: Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], United  
13 States Coast Guard, [REDACTED].

14 (Whereupon, GRACE MIN, an interpreter, interpreted the questions  
15 and answers for GUNJIN LEE as required.)

16 INTERVIEW OF GUNJIN LEE

17 BY MR. WILLETT:

18 Q. All right, Mr. Lee, we can get started. We wanted to ask you  
19 a little bit about your experience at sea.

20 A. Yeah. Yeah.

21 Q. How long have you been sailing on vessels?

22 A. In this vessel?

23 Q. Just any vessel.

24 A. Any vessel? Rough estimate I sail for in my training ship in  
25 my school is University Mopu (ph.). Well, it's 6 month.

1 Q. Six months?

2 A. Yeah, one semester.

3 Q. Okay. So how long have you been on this vessel, the Golden  
4 Ray?

5 A. I'm onboard on August 28th, so 10 days.

6 Q. Ten days. Okay. What were your duties on the Golden Ray?

7 A. My duty is learning and watching what they are doing.

8 Q. Okay. What is a normal day for you like?

9 A. Normal days? I wake up on 6:30 and I wash and eat breakfast  
10 and --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- started working at 7:30 with my -- okay. So after that  
13 his thing with the one who is assigned him.

14 Q. Okay, so it might be a different assignment. Okay. He's  
15 learning, okay.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I get it.

18 A. So but he's kind of -- he's tagging along.

19 Q. Since you're kind of new to the boat, I think what we'll do  
20 is just kind of skip forward until we're departing Brunswick.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. So tell me what the sequence of events when you guys started  
23 moving away from the dock and start there. Where were you on the  
24 bridge?

25 A. Well, at first I get at the pilot -- at this time?

- 1 Q. Yeah, on the way out.
- 2 A. Pilot and captain is on the starboard side of bridge.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. And I was the front of door, starboard side door because I  
5 have to say pilot's order to quartermaster --
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. -- at the time.
- 8 Q. So you would follow the pilot around so you could relay the  
9 commands?
- 10 A. Yeah, our job on the bridge. I make coffee for pilot.
- 11 Q. Oh, okay. Okay.
- 12 A. Yeah, just the little things.
- 13 Q. Okay, so you're just -- he's just learning. I get it.
- 14 A. Yeah, right.
- 15 Q. So when did you first notice there was a problem?
- 16 A. At 40, 50, at that time just only that time. When the boat  
17 was kind of started tilt --
- 18 Q. Okay
- 19 A. -- that's when he first realized.
- 20 Q. Before the tilt did you hear any alarms?
- 21 A. Not sure because there are many situations in the bridge.
- 22 Q. Okay. Did you ever see fire or smoke prior to the boat  
23 starting to list?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Okay. When the boat started to list --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- and you knew you were in trouble, did you go for your  
3 lifejacket or --

4 A. Oh, no. No. At that time I go and I check if each  
5 (indiscernible). He didn't go for a lifejacket.

6 Q. Okay. Did you have -- what were your duties for abandon  
7 ship? Would you need to grab the EPIRB or do you get a blanket  
8 or --

9 INTERPRETER: Okay. So what was his duties when there's an  
10 order to abandon the ship?

11 MR. WILLETT: Correct.

12 BY MR. WILLETT:

13 Q. Correct.

14 A. I'm not sure.

15 Q. Okay. Okay. Did you have any training, emergency training?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. So did they talk to you about where you're supposed to go for  
18 abandon ship?

19 A. It's maybe. Not sure.

20 Q. Okay.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Maybe if you could ask him --

22 INTERPRETER: Well, what he's saying that he heard some --  
23 captain is saying something but he doesn't remember what exactly  
24 it was.

25 BY MR. WILLETT:



1 Q. Oh, oh, okay. Well, 10 days ago when you came on the ship --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- did they teach you what to do in case there was a fire?

4 A. At that day, so I check in for --

5 Q. No, no, just any day. Yeah.

6 A. When, that day?

7 Q. Anytime, yeah.

8 A. It's maybe.

9 Q. Okay, that's fine. Did you get out of the ship through the  
10 port side or starboard side?

11 A. It tilt to port side and --

12 Q. And you got on the boat or helicopter?

13 A. Boat.

14 Q. Okay. All right.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No questions.

16 MS. BELL: No questions.

17 BY MR. FLAHERTY:

18 Q. Just to clarify, what year are you at college, first year,  
19 second year?

20 A. He's a junior.

21 Q. You're a junior.

22 A. Third year, right.

23 Q. Third year? Okay. How many times have you sailed on  
24 merchant ships as part of your training at the maritime?

25 A. No. Because our training ship is not merchant.

1 Q. Okay, so you've been on a training ship?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay, but not -- this is the first time you've sailed on a  
4 commercial ship?

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

6 Q. All right. So no alarms before the incident?

7 A. I can't remember.

8 Q. Was there -- when things started to happen were -- did the  
9 captain start issuing orders or just everything just happened?

10 A. After the ship lifted?

11 Q. Yeah, as the ship tilted over did the captain give any orders  
12 to the people on the bridge to do things?

13 A. After ship lifted captain tried to know what's happening and  
14 just I can remember only that.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. He tried to know.

17 Q. Right, so he was trying to find out where the people were or  
18 what was happening on the ship?

19 A. I'm not sure.

20 Q. Okay. When the vessel was in port, well, where did you join  
21 the ship? Where did you -- what port did you join the ship at?

22 A. In Freeport.

23 Q. Freeport, all right. And when you were in the port here,  
24 Brunswick, what did you -- what was your -- did they assign you to  
25 assist a specific officer during that day while they were loading

1 cargo?

2 A. No, I'm just learning.

3 Q. I'm sorry?

4 A. I'm just -- I am here to learning so I have to --

5 Q. Was there a specific officer he was with during that day?

6 A. They all are different depending on the situation on who to  
7 follow.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Okay. So depending on the situation he follows this one --

10 Q. All right.

11 A. -- this officer, that officer, things like that.

12 Q. Was he involved in observing and learning about the cargo  
13 operations that day?

14 A. At that day?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I have no idea for sure.

17 Q. Okay. Let me ask a couple questions. Before the ship lifted  
18 was there any loud noises or vibrations before that happened?

19 A. I cannot recall there's that.

20 Q. All right.

21 A. Positive. I think I'm not sure because my memory is  
22 confused.

23 Q. Were you injured at all?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. No injured.

2 MR. FLAHERTY: All right. I'm fine. Thank you.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No questions.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing further.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing.

6 MR. WILLETT: All righty. Well, that concludes the  
7 interview. It is 5:14 p.m.

8 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

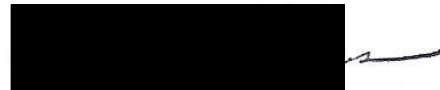
IN THE MATTER OF:           CAPSIZING/SINKING OF THE *GOLDEN*  
                                  *RAY* IN THE BRUNSWICK RIVER,  
                                  GEORGIA, ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2019  
                                  Interview of Gunjin Lee

ACCIDENT NO.:               DCA19FM048

PLACE:

DATE:                        September 10, 2019

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.

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of the transcriber. A small, handwritten mark is visible to the right of the redaction.

---

Teresa Holevas  
Transcriber