

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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SHIPBOARD FIRE ABOARD THE *HOËGH*
XIAMEN IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA,
ON JUNE 4, 2020

Accident No.: DCA20FM020

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Interview of: SHAOHU LIU, Electrician
The *Hoëgh Xiamen*

Jacksonville, Florida

Saturday,
June 6, 2020

APPEARANCES:

MARCEL L. MUISE, Marine Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOSEPH PANAGIOTOU, Fire and Explosion Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Jacksonville

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Jacksonville

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Investigator
U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Jacksonville

JIMMIN CHANG, Chinese Interpreter
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

JONI A. POITIER, Attorney
Moseley, Prichard, Parrish, Knight & Jones
(On behalf of the *Hoëgh Xiamen*)

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Shaohu Liu:

By LTJG [REDACTED]

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LTJG [REDACTED] Good afternoon everyone. My name is LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm an investigator with the Coast Guard here at Sector Jacksonville. We're here to conduct an interview of the electrical engineer or electrician -- we'll determine that in a minute -- of the *Hoëgh Xiamen*.

I'm going to around the table and introduce everyone by name, and then we'll go to the phones, and then we'll start the interview.

MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] investigating officer, Sector Jacksonville.

LT [REDACTED] LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sector Jacksonville.

MS. POITIER: Joni Poitier from Moseley, Prichard, Parrish, Knight, and Jones. I'm attorney for vessel interests.

LTJG [REDACTED] NTSB next please?

MR. MUISE: This is Marcel Muise, marine safety with the NTSB.

MR. PANAGIOTOU: This is Joseph Panagiotou with the NTSB, Office of Research and Engineering.

MR. CHANG: Jimmin Chang, U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary Chinese interpreter.

LTJG [REDACTED] And then, Mr. Chang, if you could ask the gentleman here to say his name and position aboard the vessel?

MR. LIU: Yes. Liu, Shaohu.

LTJG [REDACTED] Okay.

1 MR. LIU: Electrician.

2 LTJG [REDACTED] Electrician?

3 MR. LIU: Um-hum.

4 LTJG [REDACTED] Okay.

5 (Whereupon, a Chinese language interpreter translated the
6 questions and answers for Mr. Liu, as required.)

7 INTERVIEW OF SHAOHU LIU

8 BY LTJG [REDACTED]

9 Q. And then, Mr. Chang, if you could just ask him to briefly
10 describe the days events of the fire from after cargo was finished
11 to when he got off the boat, when the fire department was there,
12 please?

13 A. Chinese?

14 Q. Yeah, you can go Chinese to -- through the translator.

15 A. That afternoon during the cargo loading time, so I was, I
16 guess, taking a break.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. After that, so I heard from the loudspeaker that there is
19 smoke.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So I immediately put on my working uniform. So I run
22 outside. So I listened to somebody's instructions for my work.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So they asked me to shut off the ventilation dampers. So
25 after, I shut it off to hook up the fire hoses. So I was just

1 following the commands, instructions.

2 Q. Okay. So when you shut the fire dampers, or the ventilation
3 dampers, how did you do it?

4 A. So first, so I rush over there with quite a number of people
5 to close the dampers -- no. No, no.

6 Q. No?

7 A. No, no, no. So first, so I guess, you shut using the manual
8 hand -- hand manual ventilation dampers.

9 Q. Okay. And did you -- can you please ask him --

10 A. (Speaking Chinese.)

11 Q. Oh, go ahead.

12 A. So the first was to do the manual dampers first, and then I
13 proceed to operate the electronic operated dampers.

14 Q. Okay. And then can you please ask him -- or --

15 A. So the ventilation dampers, I followed instructions from the
16 commander to tell me to, to do it. And I just shut off, following
17 instructions.

18 Q. Okay. Can you please ask him, Mr. Chang, did he, did he
19 check to see that all the dampers were closed? If there was an
20 indicator or anything like that?

21 A. So I, I did take the action to try to close it, but there's
22 no way we could inspect to see if actually closed.

23 Q. Okay. Is that just for the manual ones or for the, the push
24 button, the automatic ones?

25 A. So for the manual ones, several people rushed over, several

1 -- many people rushed over to do it by hand. So the electronic
2 ones, there is a push button.

3 LT [REDACTED] Okay.

4 LTJG [REDACTED] Is there an indicator light that shows whether
5 it's open or closed?

6 MR. LIU: So I pretty nervous at the time.

7 LTJG [REDACTED] Okay. That's understandable. Okay. Coast
8 Guard doesn't have any more questions. If the NTSB has any,
9 please go ahead.

10 MR. MUISE: I have nothing further.

11 MR. PANAGIOTOU: Neither do I. Thank you.

12 LTJG [REDACTED] All right. Mr. Chang, if you can please tell
13 him -- thank him --

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: SHIPBOARD FIRE ABOARD THE *HOËGH XIAMEN* IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA,
ON JUNE 4, 2020
Interview of Shaohu Liu

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA20FM020

PLACE: Jacksonville, Florida

DATE: June 6, 2020

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.



Linda S. Dehn
Transcriber