

1 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
2 VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH
3 QC
4

5 STSSN STUART R. RHODES
6

7 CONDUCTED AT COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 1 CONFERENCE ROOM,
8 822 CLARK STREET, BUILDING 661, PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
9

10 ON 16 February 2001
11

12 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: The time is now about 1307, the date is 16
13 February 2001. We are here interviewing Seaman Rhodes. Good
14 afternoon Seaman Rhodes, my name is Tom Roth-Roffy and I'm an
15 accident investigator with the National Transportation Safety
16 Board. I and several other safety board investigators are here
17 investigating the accident that occurred between the USS
18 GREENEVILLE and the fishing vessel EHIME MARU, on February 9,
19 2001. Also joining in today's interview will be representatives
20 from the United States Coast Guard, United States Navy. For
21 your information the National Transportation Safety Board is a
22 federal government agency responsible for investigating
23 transportation accidents in the United States--ah--the purpose
24 of our investigation is to determine the cause of the accident
25 and to make recommendations aimed at preventing the occurrence
26 of the accident again or similar accidents. In our
27 investigation we will make no effort to assign blame to any
28 person or party. And nor do we have any legal authority to take
29 action against any person. Our investigation is strictly
30 safety--strictly a safety investigation and not a legal
31 investigation. If you desire you may have someone assist you
32 with answering your questions. Would you like to have somebody
33 help you or do you think you can make it out--make it through
34 okay?

35
36 WIT: I think I can make it.
37

38 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay, very good.
39

40 WIT: You can ask me some questions.
41

42 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: We'll try not to make them too hard for you.
43

44 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay again, joining me in the investigation are
45 those seated at these two tables. I would like to ask them to
46 introduce themselves.
47

1 MR. WOODY: Bill Woody from NTSB.
2
3 MR. STRAUCH: I'm Barry Strauch from NTSB.
4
5 LT HENDRICKS: Doug Hendricks, SUBPAC.
6
7 WIT: Hello, sir.
8
9 LT(jg) KUSANO: Lieutenant (jg) Ken Kusano, Coast Guard.
10
11 WIT: Hello, sir.
12
13 LT JOHNSON: Lieutenant Charlie Johnson, Coast Guard.
14
15 LCDR SANTOMAURO: Lieutenant Commander Santomauro, SUBPAC.
16
17 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Commander Santomauro will Commander Caccivio be
18 joining us?
19
20 LCDR SANTOMARUO: Commander John Caccivio might be joining us is
21 a few minutes.
22
23 WIT: Okay.
24
25 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: With that, Seaman Rhodes I would like you to
26 think back--please--try to visualize what you were doing on the
27 morning of Friday, February 9th. I'd like you to describe your
28 activities--ah--during the time you reported on the submarine in
29 the morning prior to getting underway and ah--please describe
30 all the things you were doing ah--during the morning and into
31 the afternoon ah--and which you--up until the time of collision
32 and maybe a little beyond that. Again, try to visualize this.
33 It's often effective--you can think in your mind's eye and from
34 what you are seeing in your mind's eye--please just vocalize.
35 Give us as much detail as you can and just tell us everything
36 that you did, you heard, you saw. What people told you or what
37 you may have told other people during those few hours in the
38 morning and early afternoon of February 9th. And I'd like to--
39 for you to tell your story completely without interruptions and
40 keep talking until you reached the end of your story.
41
42 WIT: Alright. Um--We had to report to the boat at 5 o'clock--
43 5:30. And so I just brought some--a bag like usual when we get
44 underway. We were only getting underway for a day and I didn't
45 really bring a lot--I just brought some snacks or something. I
46 went to the boat and looked at the watchbill to see who was on
47 the maneuvering watch and I found out I was in Sonar. I thought

1 that was pretty interesting, but I--ah--I ended up at the
2 maneuvering watch securing the watertight door so I--before that
3 we did a clean-up. You probably don't need to know about that.
4 An hour before--um--we went underway we did a clean-up for the
5 guests to make the boat look good. It wasn't really much,
6 because the boat--we clean-up all the time. So, um--stationed
7 maneuver watch--they told me that I would be helping securing
8 the watertight door and that we did pretty much wait until our
9 time to stand the watch at the weapons shipping hatch and all of
10 guys just talked and stuff. So, we went underway and secured
11 the watertight door. I went into Sonar with two others, it was
12 Anderson, third class petty officer--Anderson, I can't remember
13 what stack he was sitting--was sitting watch. I'm trying to
14 remember if it was Holmes sitting sup. I believe it was and I
15 can't remember who was sitting on the stack. So, it might have
16 been Reyes because Reyes was in and out, cause we really didn't
17 have a lot of people that day because a lot of people stayed on
18 shore and they had school. Um--so we went out to sea, we had
19 fathometer on watch. Doing normal things usually--I think,
20 especially me going on--alright--I relieved--I forgot who I
21 relieved--I relieved workload share and started taking logs and
22 I believe we stationed the watch that had--I believe that was me
23 and so I was standing workload share and I started taking logs.
24 Then I'm sure at sometime--because it has happened--um--because
25 Stroop and--I believe Anderson came in and relieved us for chow.
26 Um--we ate lunch and after we were done eating lunch we relieved
27 them. McGiboney was relieved by Holmes and he went and ate and
28 came back. So, we started planning fun things for the guests
29 only the depth ... [verbatim response redacted due to
30 classification]

31
32 WIT: Oh, sorry. Still new to this. So we did our angles and
33 dangles. We did our turns going up and going down--uh the
34 guests were given a tour of the boat--ah--they came into Sonar
35 and I was getting kinda of sick from angles and dangles and so I
36 had to be relieved and believe Reyes took the stack--I'm not
37 clear on that and so I rested. I just sat in a corner. Um--
38 they played the tape for the guests of the bells and sea noise,
39 fishes, and stuff. We had two groups actually going through.
40 One group went through so I took the stack again and started
41 taking the logs. I was providing backup for passive broadband
42 so--we like to take logs--certain amount of time for each
43 contact. When I'm not taking logs, which only takes about a
44 minute to write up one log down, I would scan and listen to
45 contacts to fill up my ability to verify contacts and other
46 stuff. Um--I also asked lots of questions. They'd want me to
47 ask lots of questions on any information and want me to work

1 faster and more reliable for them. I'm sure they were again
2 trying to teach me something else--something about sonar--how
3 they gain ranges and stuff. So, okay the last group--while the
4 second group came through were going up to trim angles--we went
5 up 3 degrees and going down certain amount of degrees and I
6 remember coming up and we did a baffle--so before we came up--
7 regular things you don't really think about it after you do it
8 so many times because it is just routine--you're constantly
9 searching--that's what you do. Um--I'm trying to become--I
10 remember Reyes standing behind me--McGiboney was standing up
11 like usual when we do a baffle clear he focuses more cause he'll
12 stand up--he'll stand up behind us usually. McGiboney took the
13 headphones and he listens to one of the stacks for any contacts,
14 backup mostly and we listen to the direction we're doing baffle
15 clear. Um--so we do the baffle clear. We come up and they tell
16 me that they did periscope search three times around and I
17 wasn't looking behind me--so Reyes was in and out of the room
18 and I was taking logs updating them pretty much cause we weren't
19 getting any real contacts and doing searches along with the
20 passive broadband. We came back down--um didn't hear creature
21 clouds now or anything and all of a sudden we started to come up
22 for emergency blow and we were coming up and I was like this is
23 pretty interesting--I had my logs at that time and didn't have
24 to worry about them and all the contacts go fuzzy and you have
25 to log that and we come up and I heard the crunch as we came to
26 the end and this being my first emergency blow I thought it was
27 the water. I didn't even know--I just saw McGiboney and Bowie
28 become very shocked and they sort of went into this shock mode
29 where they just stood there. Bowie says we hit something.
30 McGiboney becomes really intense. He doesn't know exactly what
31 happened--uh--I became really--sort of zone out--I mean I just
32 focus and I know I just have to do my job now. I don't think--I
33 push everything else out of my mind. I'm not thinking about
34 anything except watching the stack now--gaining contacts.
35 Cause--I mean--I feel sorry for Bowie. Bowie's all of a sudden
36 started taking this hard. He's wondering what's going on and we
37 hear the intercom from the Captain. He named the ship that we
38 hit and uh--all of a sudden Holmes rushes in and relieves
39 McGiboney. McGiboney goes out to help--I don't know what
40 McGiboney's job was, but uh--Reyes leaves too, so its just
41 Holmes, me, and Bowie. I started taking logs on all contacts.
42 We--I started searching--I just focused on the stack--I just go
43 into this mode of thinking. I wasn't thinking about anything--I
44 just did my job all of a sudden. It was weird, because you
45 become numb almost about what happened? Um--Holmes didn't know
46 quite what happened. He knew we hit something. Holmes is
47 asking questions about anything that happened and I was telling

1 him that ah--that we um--tried to get as much information on all
2 contacts that we had. We always try to get speed on all
3 contacts and for these contacts I was telling him I was unable
4 to get information on some of them and I repeated that later
5 when I brought up the contact on sonar this is what it looked
6 like. I wasn't able to get any information from it and he was
7 like okay and Bowie is pretty worried now. He's like I didn't
8 see him--I don't know what happened--he's like--he's just now
9 looking at stacks--looking for anything and um--I'm just taking
10 logs--I think I started taking logs more often then because--we
11 started having the um--I remember Captain saying that he was--
12 they were looking through the periscopes and they were searching
13 to see if they saw anybody and then they said they saw everybody
14 they believe that was in the boat and they couldn't see anybody
15 in the water um--they had the divers ready beside the watertight
16 door um--I believe it was the watertight door, because when I
17 left later, there was still some of them standing there, Master
18 Chief was still standing there. Stood watch and sorta of just
19 calmed down and I was gaining all the um--fast boats coming
20 through and ah--and the helicopters came through and we gained
21 and we listened to that--um--I was relieved to go eat dinner
22 and----

23

24 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: I think we have probably gone far enough--far
25 enough in your narrative. What we would like to do now is just
26 ask you a few follow on questions to maybe kind of clear up or
27 get a little bit more information from you. What was your
28 scheduled watch for that morning?

29

30 WIT: My--I was on maneuvering watch and then I was in I believe
31 in section 3. I was in one of the sections--I don't know
32 exactly--I believe it was section 3. All I know is um--we took
33 the watch that day. It was me, McGiboney--wait no--might have
34 been just me, Holmes, and Anderson--it was just me, Holmes, and
35 Anderson. Also, I was bummed out about that before doing
36 maneuvering watch, because I found out that I had maneuvering
37 watch and I had the watch after. Um----

38

39 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: ----About what time did you go on watch?

40

41 WIT: Hmm--I--well, see the thing is I never really stopped ah--
42 I was able to have my breaks--me and Strop. I was stationed in
43 maneuvering watch which was at 7--so and I actually didn't stand
44 the watch I was--securing the door weapons shipping hatch and I
45 imagine around eleven I actually went in there and relieved
46 workload share before lunch then and ate lunch. I went back to
47 watch and relieved workload share and I always--I can't exactly

1 remember how the watch rotation went that day because things
2 were all between um--maneuvering, the watch, and the watch after
3 I ended up standing--I don't know--it was just off and on cause
4 uh--during maneuver watches--(garbled) I relieved then I ate, I
5 stood watch then tourists came through and um--I was relieved
6 because I was feeling kinda of sick--take it over again and then
7 I think I was relieved twice for feeling kinda of sick. I felt
8 alright after a minute. I took the watch. I guess it was the
9 amount of people coming through and they were asking questions
10 and stuff. Um--so I relieved the watch--I think it was fun to
11 take all these aggressive angles and everything. Then the
12 collision happened and we were--Holmes coming in, Reyes and
13 McGiboney leaving and time passed and we gained things. Stroop,
14 I believe, came in and relieved Bowie, because he was the one
15 that asked me to--told me to listen to the helicopter um--and we
16 relieved--I went and ate--I saw all the equipment set up and
17 that is when I saw the other people--everybody else. I was told
18 to find someone to relieve fathometer and I ate at some point.
19 I came back relieved and then we were trying to figure out the
20 schedule since we had to stay out all night and then I was
21 relieved and went to sleep.

22

23 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: That is about all I have for you right now. I
24 would like to pass the questioning on to the next interviewer.

25

26 MR. WOODY: Bill Woody with NTSB. You said you felt a bump, did
27 you feel a bump?

28

29 WIT: Okay, when we came up?

30

31 MR. WOODY: Did you feel a bump?

32

33 WIT: A bump?

34

35 MR. WOODY: Something unusual?

36

37 WIT: It was my first time so I didn't know what to experience.
38 When I first felt it, I thought it was all water.

39

40 MR. WOODY: Okay, was there something else after--that occurred
41 after that?

42

43 WIT: Yeah, it was like could the--initial--came to you felt the
44 boat seem to get light then all of a sudden--you hear this
45 crunch. It was more of a heavier jolt. Then we came down and I
46 saw everyone's eyes get big.

47

1 MR. WOODY: I think that answered my question very nicely. Ah-
2 let's see. You said you were sick. Were you sick during the
3 maneuvering watch while the ship was going out of port?

4

5 WIT: No, it was only during the short time of angles and
6 dangles.

7

8 MR. WOODY: Petty Officer--I mean Seaman Rhodes that is all I
9 have. Thank you very much.

10

11 MR. STRAUCH: I'm Barry Strauch with National Transportation
12 Safety Board. Can you tell me a little bit about your
13 background?

14

15 WIT: My background--like?

16

17 MR. STRAUCH: What did you do after high school, when you went
18 into the Navy, what you've done in the Navy.

19

20 WIT: In high school I was pretty much an artist. I mean I had
21 a couple of friends. Me and my friends were pretty much loners.
22 We didn't hang out with any crowds. Got out of high school. I
23 was in this--upward bound program that helped me out and went to
24 college for a year and after that because they paid for it
25 pretty much. It wasn't the college I wanted to go to because I
26 wanted to go to art college. I decided to go back home--well
27 home was only 30 minutes away. I wanted to make some money and
28 hopefully go to my college I like and I had five jobs in a year
29 because I kept getting a better job that paid more. It was just
30 out of habit and ah--after that um--I went back and I helped out
31 with the college because they wanted me as a counselor. So, I
32 was a counselor which was pretty much supervising kids and
33 stuff. And then after that I went back home and I was thinking
34 about what I was going to do, well I can't save enough money for
35 college and I decided I wanted to travel. I decided to join the
36 Navy. So I joined the Navy and I had no idea what I was going
37 to do. Um--they said they needed people in the submarine field
38 so I said alright--if you need people there I'll go. So, I went
39 to boot camp. That was a real experience. We were in a
40 submarine division and the whole division did real good and they
41 almost made the very top. Left boot camp um--went to BES, Basic
42 Submarine School. Did half decent in there--um--after BES went
43 to A-school. Sailed through there--not as great as I liked to.
44 I found out that we could pick boats and I decided I wanted to
45 go to Hawaii and I picked the GREENEVILLE. No one knew anything
46 about the boats and then I came here.

47

1 MR. STRAUCH: How long have you been in the Navy?
2
3 WIT: I've been in the Navy since August 9, 2000.
4
5 MR. STRAUCH: Okay, ah--you said----
6
7 WIT: ----August 9, 1999.
8
9 MR. STRAUCH: Oh, okay, thank you. Um--how many times have you
10 seen civilians come through?
11
12 WIT: Well, besides the tourists that come on board when we're
13 in port, ah--actually go underway with us?
14
15 MR. STRAUCH: MmmHmm.
16
17 WIT: Ah--I think this was one of the only ones I was on.
18
19 MR. STRAUCH: Okay.
20
21 WIT: Yeah, this was the only tour I was on----
22
23 MR. STRAUCH: ----How did you get all your things done with them
24 around?
25
26 WIT: Hmm--didn't seem any different to me then any other
27 underway I've been on. We kept--each division did their job as
28 the tour came by. We talked to them and answered their
29 questions and they went on their way.
30
31 MR. STRAUCH: That's different right there, isn't it?
32
33 WIT: Slightly, but when they came through um--the sup answered
34 some questions and passive broadband still did his job and when
35 I was relieved by--because I was feeling kinda of sick then--ah--
36 workload share still did his job so, besides them just walking
37 through.
38
39 MR. STRAUCH: Okay, after the questioning you said that you took
40 it pretty badly. Did anybody else exhibit a similar reaction?
41
42 WIT: Again, McGiboney took it very bad. He was more--he
43 handled it a lot better than Bowie did. Bowie is a lot younger
44 so, of course McGiboney was able to handle it better. Um--he
45 still had to take--for his own--COB I believe said well you got
46 to take some rest--this is something big. So, Holmes took over.
47

1 MR. STRAUCH: But the reaction was similar that they both felt
2 that they missed it----
3
4 WIT: ----yeah
5
6 MR. STRAUCH: Did they give you any indication as to what might
7 have been missing?
8
9 WIT: They both say that they didn't see it--we never saw it.
10 There was no sign of it. They were completely in awe from--they
11 couldn't imagine being there--it was like--it was like--I don't
12 know how to explain it except--when you are doing your job and--
13 that is what we were staring at was in the ocean and not being
14 able to see that just struck them--they just didn't know what
15 happen.
16
17 MR. STRAUCH: I don't have anymore questions, thank you.
18
19 LT HEDRICK: Lieutenant Hedrick, SUBPAC. Do you have enough
20 water whatever you need?
21
22 WIT: Yes.
23
24 LT HEDRICK: Do you need something else? Need to take a break
25 or anything. Okay. Prior to February 9th last Friday, how many
26 times have you gotten underway in the submarine?
27
28 WIT: One other time.
29
30 LT HEDRICK: Only one other time? You said ah--I'm trying to
31 understand what your maneuvering watch assignment was. You said
32 you were securing the weapons shipping hatch. Were you on the
33 maneuvering watch watchbill?
34
35 WIT: Yes.
36
37 LT HEDRICK: By name for anything?
38
39 WIT: Sonar Operator number 4.
40
41 LT HEDRICK: Sonar Operator number 4.
42
43 WIT: Yes, sir.
44
45 LT HEDRICK: UI or just listed as Sonar Operator number 4?
46

1 WIT: On maneuvering watch it is listed as Sonar Operator number
2 4.
3
4 LT HEDRICK: Um--did you spend part of the maneuvering watch in
5 Sonar or did you spend the entire maneuvering watch at the
6 weapons shipping hatch?
7
8 WIT: I spent the last end of the maneuvering watch in Sonar. I
9 relieved workload share.
10
11 LT HEDRICK: When you went out to work with the weapons shipping
12 hatch, did someone relieve you as the port sonar----
13
14 WIT: I never took the workload share. Somebody was already
15 there.
16
17 LT HEDRICK: Alright. The underway watchbill was your name on
18 the underway watchbill for anything?
19
20 WIT: Well, that is something about sonar operator number 4 the
21 underway watchbill.
22
23 LT HEDRICK: So, you didn't have a separate watchbill for the
24 maneuvering watch?
25
26 WIT: Oh, sorry. Um--the underway watchbill----
27
28 LT HEDRICK: ----That's alright----
29
30 WIT: Yeah, that's what me, Anderson, and Holmes we were in that
31 section.
32
33 LT HEDRICK: So the three of you were in watch sections
34 together?
35
36 WIT: Yeah.
37
38 LT HEDRICK: Okay, you were listed as a UI for that or just a
39 watchstander?
40
41 WIT: Um--on the watchbill I was listed as just a watchstander.
42
43 LT HEDRICK: Okay. What watches have you completed
44 qualifications for?
45
46 WIT: Um--for--just basic petty officer of the day and topside
47 sentry.

1
2 LT HEDRICK: Okay. Those are in port watches, correct?
3
4 WIT: Yes.
5
6 LT HEDRICK: Just for the record--for the record. Okay. Um--
7 that's all I have. Thank you.
8
9 LT JOHNSON: Hi there. I'm Lieutenant Johnson with the Coast
10 Guard. Did you say you were on watch in Sonar sometime after
11 you secured the maneuvering watch?
12
13 WIT: Um--it was before the maneuvering watch was secured
14 because it was weapons shipping hatch we had closed that and I
15 went in Sonar at sometime and relieved----
16
17 LT JOHNSON: Did you assume the role of watch stander and Sonar
18 at that time?
19
20 WIT: Um--I took the logs and provided back up for passive
21 broadband as McGiboney supervised over me.
22
23 LT JOHNSON: Did you relieve anybody----
24
25 WIT: ----Yes----
26
27 LT JOHNSON: to assume that watch? Who did you relieve?
28
29 WIT: I relieved--I can't exactly remember who I relieved.
30
31 LT JOHNSON: Were they a qualified watchstander?
32
33 WIT: Yes.
34
35 LT JOHNSON: So, you relieved a qualified watchstander?
36
37 WIT: MmmHmm.
38
39 LT JOHNSON: Did you have anyone that was appointed to be your
40 over instruction watch specifically?
41
42 WIT: Not at that point, no.
43
44 LT JOHNSON: At what point did you receive someone to--appointed
45 to act as your over watchstander?
46

1 WIT: I didn't--um--when standing the UI in there ah--passive
2 broadband will also help you. Um--the sup will also help you.
3 So, when you stand the UI, whoever is available will help you
4 (garbled).
5
6 LT JOHNSON: There was no one appointed to oversee you--your--
7 you basically relieved a qualified watchstander yourself--I'm
8 recapping so I understand. You basically relieved a qualified
9 watchstander yourself without a qualified watchstander there to
10 assist you--just you to focus on you.
11
12 WIT: Not to focus on me, no.
13
14 LT JOHNSON: Okay, um--that's all the questions I have.
15
16 LCDR SANTOMAURO: Lieutenant Commander Santomauro.
17
18 WIT: Hello, sir.
19
20 LCDR SANTOMAURO: During the course of the baffle clear, in
21 preparation to go to periscope depth and at periscope depth at
22 anytime did you hear a 27MC report made by the Sonar Supervisor
23 to control on Sierra 12 or Sierra 13.
24
25 WIT: Um--on the contact? I don't recall.
26
27 LCDR SANTOMARURO: Do you recall any 27--27MC announcements made
28 to control?
29
30 WIT: Not necessarily.
31
32 LCDR SANTOMARURO: No?
33
34 WIT: No.
35
36 LCDR SANTOMARURO: Do you recall any ranges um--to Sierra 12 or
37 Sierra 13----
38
39 WIT: ----um----
40
41 LCDR SANTOMARURO: ----discussed in Sonar at all?
42
43 WIT: Yes, I recall one range. It was--if I remember, it was a
44 23K or 20.3K range on some contact--I don't remember what it
45 was--the number. But they were a range--there was a range
46 called I believe it was called by Reyes--range. It was just--I

1 don't know how he got the range, he just announced it. It was
2 from the sup.
3
4 LCDR SANTOMARURO: Were you the log keeper?
5
6 WIT: Yes.
7
8 LCDR SANTOMARURO: Did you log any ranges in the log?
9
10 WIT: Yes, I logged that range.
11
12 LCDR SANTOMARURO: You did?
13
14 WIT: Yes.
15
16 LCDR SANTOMARURO: Okay. Thank you--I have no more questions.
17
18 LT JOHNSON: I have one additional question if I may. LT
19 Johnson, U.S. Coast Guard. Did anyone ever--ah--ask to see your
20 log during the watch. Did anyone come over and take a look over
21 your shoulder and take a look at what you were logging?
22
23 WIT: During the crash or after?
24
25 LT JOHNSON: I beg your pardon?
26
27 WIT: Before the crash or after the crash?
28
29 LT JOHNSON: The entire time you were on watch?
30
31 WIT: Yes.
32
33 LT JOHNSON: Who was looking at the log along with you?
34
35 WIT: Um--after the crash um--Holmes. He immediately came over
36 and he said let me see your logs, let me see the previous
37 contacts, let me see what was going on.
38
39 LT JOHNSON: Was there any--was there any writing done in the
40 logs after the crash?
41
42 WIT: After the crash?
43
44 LT JOHNSON: Yeah, I mean--I mean----
45
46 WIT: ----oh, we had to----
47

1 LT JOHNSON: ----back date it into----
2
3 WIT: Yeah, um----
4
5 LT JOHNSON: ----before the crash-----
6
7 WIT: What we do with the logs and when we write the contact
8 down the Sierra number--repeat the Sierra number and the contact
9 like Bravo Charlie--Sierra number and the tracker--yes the
10 tracker.
11
12 LT JOHNSON: Would you repeat that information?
13
14 WIT: When we first gain a contact we will write down if its
15 surface....
16
17 LT JOHNSON: Is that the log right there in front of you?
18
19 WIT: Yep. This is it.
20
21 LT JOHNSON: Is that your handwriting?
22
23 WIT: Yes it is.
24
25 LT JOHNSON: Okay, did the XO at anytime ask to see the log?
26
27 WIT: The XO--no--not that I remember. I was also relieved
28 later, so he might have seen it.
29
30 LT JOHNSON: Before the incident----
31
32 WIT: ----No he did not----
33
34 LT JOHNSON: Did the Sonar Supervisor ask to see the log?
35
36 WIT: Before the incident? No.
37
38 LT JOHNSON: Did anyone, before the incident, ask to see the log
39 or ask you about bearing information on contacts? Historical
40 data?
41
42 WIT: Um--They were asking--um--I think they ask for RPM--um--
43 cause I was telling them that it--I was asking if I was right or
44 not.
45
46 LT JOHNSON: Do you--do you have turn counts----
47

1 WIT: ----Yes----

2

3 LT JOHNSON: ----annotated for all the contacts?

4

5 WIT: Not for all. We were unable to gain information on all

6 contacts.

7

8 LT JOHNSON: Alright, thanks.

9

10 WIT: Okay.

11

12 LT(jg) KUSANO: Just one question. This is Lieutenant Kusano.

13 When you look at a display, how do you know what course the sub

14 is heading towards.

15

16 WIT: Um--okay when you are looking at the passive broadband

17 display--you know your own course and you know where the boat's

18 course is from true--where you are. Um--by doing TMA analysis,

19 which is target motion analysis. You can determine true course

20 of a target.

21

22 LT(jg) KUSANO: What--what I mean your course--how do you know?

23

24 WIT: Oh, its just displayed on your--

25

26 LT(jg) KUSANO: Do you remember seeing what--do you remember any

27 course changes prior to the incident?

28

29 WIT: Um--not necessarily I don't know what direction we did for

30 the baffle clear or anything. No.

31

32 LT(jg) KUSANO: You don't remember any courses anybody ordered

33 or anything?

34

35 WIT: No. It's just above my level.

36

37 LT(jg) KUSANO: That's all.

38

39 CDR CACCIVIO: This is Commander Caccivio. First of all what

40 heading display do you have on your console?

41

42 WIT: I have the exact same thing as passive broadband except he

43 has two displays and it is ADE angles.

44

45 CDR CACCIVIO: What course display?

46

1 WIT: Oh, a course display is just up on your left hand side and
2 it shows your course. It's not really that good displays it is
3 a set of numbers for course.
4
5 CDR CACCIVIO: But it gives you----
6
7 WIT: ----the course----
8
9 CDR CACCIVIO: ----the course. Okay, do you have any other
10 indications that would tell you where the bow of the stern ship
11 was?
12
13 WIT: Yes, um--on your passive broadband you have the bow of the
14 boat there is a little triangle dot--triangle pointing down at
15 the stern. The little stern marker is just a solid line.
16
17 CDR CACCIVIO: And those markings are you able to interpret what
18 the direction the ship is headed--based on those markings--is
19 that some overlays of ah--bearing scale along with that?
20
21 WIT: Can I draw it?
22
23 CDR CACCIVIO: Sure.
24
25 WIT: In a DE you have your true bearing. You're going to have
26 north display or your going to have a south display was north or
27 south I mean----
28
29 CDR CACCIVIO: ----You mean south centered and north centered
30 displays basically indicating north or south would be in the
31 center display?
32
33 WIT: Yes, and you have a triangle pointing down and on the
34 opposite side you have a stern marker would be a bright line and
35 that's how you would tell between your bow and your stern.
36
37 CDR CACCIVIO: Are there any other indications of--or any other
38 indications of course----
39
40 WIT: ----Um you have your 90 and 270.
41
42 CDR CACCIVIO: And that is the smallest? It doesn't give any 45
43 degree marks?
44
45 WIT: I'm going blank.
46

1 CDR CACCIVIO: Would it be reasonable that you could get a rough
2 feel for bearing----
3
4 WIT: ----Yes----
5
6 CDR CACCIVIO: ----by looking at this? Okay. Um--The entry for
7 Sierra 16, I believe, is that your entry? I think it's on the
8 second--I think. No, I'm sorry--I'm sorry it's this contact
9 right here? Sierra 16, is that your entry?
10
11 WIT: Yes, that is.
12
13 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay what was the classification of Sierra 16
14 when you made that entry?
15
16 WIT: Hmm--I cannot recall.
17
18 CDR CACCIVIO: Do you know who Sierra 16 was?
19
20 WIT: Umm--no. I don't have enough background or enough out to
21 sea knowledge to actually know a contact by just hearing it.
22
23 CDR CACCIVIO: Was Sierra 16 reported to you by the broadband
24 operator?
25
26 WIT: Umm--when he gains a contact it also ends up on my
27 display. So, all I have to do is look up, look across and write
28 them down----
29
30 CDR CACCIVIO: You just wrote down Sierra 16 gained (garbled)
31 faded.
32
33 WIT: Yes, it was gained----
34
35 CDR CACCIVIO: ----This entry is based on your interpretation---
36
37 WIT: ----Well----
38
39 CDR CACCIVIO: ----of this display.
40
41 WIT: Now, I remember that contact--that contact--he gained it
42 and like in two seconds he had to drop it. They got onto me for
43 doing this too. What I needed to have done, right here because
44 I'm not experienced, is write gained and right at the same time,
45 cause no time changed in minutes, and write faded, cause he saw
46 the trace and he knew it was a contact and it was gone.
47

1 CDR CACCIVIO: But this data in your log, is entered based on
2 your data that you have obtained from the workload share
3 station?
4
5 WIT: Yes, sir.
6
7 CDR CACCIVIO: None of this data was given to you by broadband
8 operator?
9
10 WIT: Well--I mean--was given to me by passive broadband cause
11 he was the one that gained it and faded it.
12
13 CDR CACCIVIO: Let me be very specific in this question. To get
14 the data that you put into that form, did you take that data
15 from the workload share display, or did you get it from a voice
16 report from the broadband operator?
17
18 WIT: I got it from a voice report from the broadband operator--
19 cause----
20
21 CDR CACCIVIO: ----I would like you to stop and think about your
22 answer again, because this is now 180 degrees out from what you
23 said two times before----
24
25 WIT: ----Yes, I understand----
26
27 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay. Did you get this data--I realize that the
28 contact is gained on the broadband console and that that is now
29 displayed on your workload share console. Did you get the data
30 from looking at the workload share console or did you get the
31 data because the broadband operator turned to you and said
32 gained Sierra 16 bearing?
33
34 WIT: That was very detailed.
35
36 CDR CACCIVIO: Take your time.
37
38 WIT: When he gains a contact--he gained this--he'll announce it
39 to the sup and then I'm not fast enough to write all that down,
40 so I'll look on my display and then I'll write all that
41 information down, but before I was able to finish, writing all
42 that information down, he faded it, so, I was like well okay.
43 So, I wrote it down that it was gained and faded and that's how
44 it happened.
45
46 CDR CACCIVIO: In the broadband operator's report to the Sonar
47 Supervisor, did he make a classification report?

1
2 WIT: I, believe he said surface or merchant. Those are the two
3 common ones called. I don't remember which one he said.
4
5 CDR CACCIVIO: At anytime did the broadband operator classify a
6 contact to Sonar Supervisor as a sinking contact?
7
8 WIT: I believe I remember his saying something, I can hear
9 them, but I don't believe--I believe heard the popping and
10 believe he can say he heard them, but that's it.
11
12 CDR CACCIVIO: What contact was he referring to?
13
14 WIT: The sinking contact.
15
16 CDR CACCIVIO: Which Sierra number? Do you know?
17
18 WIT: I don't believe it was ever assigned a Sierra number.
19
20 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay. When you went to periscope depth, who was
21 your Sonar Supervisor?
22
23 WIT: McGiboney.
24
25 CDR CACCIVIO: Who was broadband Operator?
26
27 WIT: Bowie.
28
29 CDR CACCIVIO: Who?
30
31 WIT: Bowie.
32
33 CDR CACCIVIO: You were the workload share?
34
35 WIT: Yes.
36
37 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay, were there any other operators in Sonar?
38
39 WIT: Revis was in there--I mean not Revis--sorry--um--Reyes.
40
41 CDR CACCIVIO: And what was he doing?
42
43 WIT: He was just sitting behind me, standing behind me.
44
45 CDR CACCIVIO: Why was he standing behind you?
46
47 WIT: Just watching over me, seeing how I was doing.

1
2 CDR CACCIVIO: Is he your sea dad?
3
4 WIT: No.
5
6 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay, um--when was Petty Officer McGiboney
7 relieved? Before or after the collision?
8
9 WIT: After the collision.
10
11 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay. Were you doing--during your watches were
12 you assigning or deassigning any trackers?
13
14 WIT: No.
15
16 CDR CACCIVIO: Did you feel rested? Did you feel over tired
17 during the day?
18
19 WIT: Not until the very end of the day.
20
21 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay, so late in the day?
22
23 WIT: Yeah, very late----
24
25 CDR CACCIVIO: ----like after 1600?
26
27 WIT: Yes.
28
29 CDR CACCIVIO: Okay. Thanks.
30
31 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: This is Tom Roth-Roffy again. Anybody have any
32 further questions for Seaman Rhodes?
33
34 MR. WOODY: Bill Woody, NTSB. This inventory sheet, I think--I
35 think is--on the boat or do you have?
36
37 WIT: It's not very accurate cause I work, sleep, and study.
38 That's basically all I do. Yeah, I could rewrite that for you.
39
40 MR. WOODY: What is your first name?
41
42 WIT: S-T-U-A-R-T.
43
44 MR. WOODY: U-A-R-T?
45
46 WIT: U-A-R-T.
47

1 MR. WOODY: U?
2
3 WIT: U-A-R-T. S-T-U-A-R-T. Oh, U-A-R.
4
5 MR. WOODY: S-T-U-A-R-T. Got it.
6
7 WIT: Do you want me to rewrite that?
8
9 MR. WOODY: Just the one part of it that you didn't say what
10 time you woke up?
11
12 WIT: Oh, sorry. Hmm--Wednesday, went out to PT.
13
14 MR. WOODY: Your age please?
15
16 WIT: I'm 21.
17
18 MR. WOODY: And your height and weight?
19
20 WIT: Most accurate I believe I was last measured at 72 inches.
21
22 MR. WOODY: And you weigh about?
23
24 WIT: 193--195.
25
26 MR. WOODY: Are you in good health?
27
28 WIT: I'd say so. I passed my PRT.
29
30 MR. WOODY: Are you taking any medication prescribed by a
31 physician?
32
33 WIT: No.
34
35 MR. WOODY: Are you taking self-medication such as for hay fever
36 and like that?
37
38 WIT: No.
39
40 MR. WOODY: Do you wear glasses?
41
42 WIT: No.
43
44 MR. WOODY: Have there been any events in your life say the last
45 few weeks, months, or better to leave you pressing or has there
46 been any super good news--anything like that? Change of life
47 events?

1
2 WIT: My grandma passed away during A school, but that was
3 sometime ago.
4
5 MR. WOODY: (garbled)
6
7 WIT: When I got back from the collision I found out my cousin
8 passed away.
9
10 MR. WOODY: I see. We're particularly interested what affected
11 you before the collision?
12
13 WIT: Oh.
14
15 MR. WOODY: Did you find the passengers to be distracting?
16
17 WIT: Uh--the passengers----
18
19 MR. WOODY: ----the visitors----
20
21 WIT: Yeah, I didn't see them a lot, actually. I was standing
22 watch. They came by for that brief of time and I was relieved
23 because of the angles and dangles. I was feeling kinda sick,
24 so, I didn't really get any contact from the passengers. I just
25 sat in the **correos** trying to get my health back from--
26
27 MR. WOODY: How long did that take?
28
29 WIT: Maybe 10 minutes, I believe.
30
31 MR. WOODY: Okay that is all the questions I have now.
32
33 WIT: Okay.
34
35 MR. WOODY: Thank you.
36
37 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Seaman Rhodes it is now about 1400 and that
38 concludes our interview. Thank you much. Thanks for coming by.