

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY

---

In the Matter of:	*
	*
	*
MAJOR MARINE ACCIDENT	* NTSB Project ID
COLLISION JAPANESE FISHERIES	* No. 51701
TRAINING VESSEL EHIME MARU AND	* DCA01MM022
U.S. NAVY NUCLEAR ATTACK	*
SUBMARINE USS GREENEVILLE	*
	*

---

Recorded Interview EM2 ARROYO  
(Tape 14 Side A)

Sunday,  
February 18, 2001

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. The date is 18th of  
3 February and we are here interviewing Petty Officer  
4 Arroyo.

5 Good afternoon. My name is Tom Roth-Roffy.  
6 And I am an accident investigator with the National  
7 Transportation Safety Board. I and several other  
8 investigators are here investigating the accident that  
9 occurred between the USS Greeneville and the fishing  
10 vessel EHIME MARU that occurred on February 9, 2001.

11 For information, the Safety Board is a  
12 Federal Government agency responsible for investigating  
13 transportation accidents in the United States.  
14 The purpose of the Safety Board's investigation is to  
15 determine the cause of the accident and to make  
16 recommendations aimed at preventing the occurrence of  
17 future similar accidents. This is not, in our  
18 investigation we make no effort to assign blame to any  
19 person involved in the accident. Nor do we have any  
20 legal authority to penalize anyone. This is strictly a  
21 safety investigation and not a legal investigation.

22 If you desire you may have another person  
23 assist you during the interview. Would you like to  
24 have somebody assist you or do you think you can make

1 it through on your own?

2 MR. ARROYO: Yes.

3 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. Also joining me in  
4 the interview are representatives from the United  
5 States Coast Guard and the United States Navy. And I  
6 would like at this time for them to introduce  
7 themselves.

8 MR. WOODY: Bill Woody, with the NTSB.

9 LIEUTENANT JOHNSON: Lieutenant Charlie  
10 Johnson, the United States Coast Guard.

11 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SANTOMAURO: Lieutenant  
12 Commander Santomauro, United States Navy.

13 COMMANDER CACCIVIO: U.S. Navy.

14 CAPTAIN KYLE: Tom Kyle, U.S. Navy.

15 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. What I would like  
16 you to do is just think back to the late morning hours  
17 of February 9th on a Friday. You are at sea aboard the  
18 vessel. Please describe, tell us when you went on  
19 watch and what was told to you when you relieved the  
20 watch regarding any engineering conditions that  
21 existed?

22 MR. ARROYO: I took the watch after lunch,  
23 which was approximately 1:30 or so. And basically when  
24 I relieved the watch, there really no concerns, as far

1 as the status of the power plant. Everything was  
2 operating all right.

3 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. Please describe your  
4 duties as throttleman?

5 MR. ARROYO: As throttleman, I am responsible  
6 for the propulsion of the ship. I control the shaft  
7 RPM, which would control the speed of the ship.

8 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: And how do you do that?  
9 What controls do you manipulate that caused the shaft  
10 RPM to change?

11 MR. ARROYO: We have, it is a throttle hand  
12 wheel, which is connected for, to linkages to the  
13 actual head throttes for mid engines.

14 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. So, you have like a  
15 War World II style steam valve, actually controls steam  
16 to the turbans?

17 MR. ARROYO: Yes.

18 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. Did you have any  
19 trouble responding to bell orders from the bridge or  
20 from the control room?

21 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

22 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: In general, the engine, the  
23 engines responded to your orders?

24 MR. ARROYO: Yes, sir.

1                   MR. ROTH-ROFFY: And your rate is, could you  
2 tell me what that means, EN?

3                   MR. ARROYO: It is Electrician Mate.

4                   TOM: Okay. That is EM, sorry.

5                   And how long have you been aboard the  
6 Greeneville?

7                   MR. ARROYO: I have been aboard since October  
8 of '98.

9                   MR. ROTH-ROFFY: And do you normally stand  
10 the throttle watch or is that something on a rotating  
11 basis that you all you do or do you have other watch  
12 stations that you rotate through?

13                   MR. ARROYO: Currently I do normally stand the  
14 throttle watch. Before the throttleman, I have stand  
15 the -- electrician amps.

16                   MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. I would like to  
17 pass the questioning to Bill Woody.

18                   MR. WOODY: I see you brought you 72R  
19 history. If I may take that now.

20                   MR. ARROYO: Yes, sir.

21                   MR. WOODY: Thank you.

22                   How long does it take to get to the position  
23 that you are in now to become qualified in submarines,  
24 start with the time you joined the Navy and what it

1 took to become a throttleman and serve on a nuclear  
2 submarine?

3 MR. ARROYO: Basically, I joined the Navy in  
4 November '96. Went through boot camp and passed  
5 interview of boot camp in January of '97. From January  
6 of '97 until January of '98 I attended Nuclear Power A  
7 School and Power School in Orlando. And from January  
8 '98 to August '98, I was at Nuclear Power Prototype in  
9 New York -- I reported to the Greeneville on October  
10 '98. And --

11 MR. WOODY: Did you go to sub school on the  
12 way somewhere?

13 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

14 MR. WOODY: Okay. And then how long did it  
15 take you become qualified in submarines and had to  
16 qualified for your present watch standing position?

17 MR. ARROYO: I qualified submarines, it was  
18 approximately nine months since I went onboard. And for  
19 qualifying throttleman, it was say, January, either  
20 January or February of '99.

21 MR. WOODY: Okay. At the time of the, do you  
22 recall the emergency ballast blow, do you recall that  
23 evolution?

24 MR. ARROYO: Yes, sir.

1           MR. WOODY: Okay. Do you recall any  
2 particular thing happening to the Greeneville  
3 associated with the emergency surface? Do you remember  
4 any kind of a shudder or noise?

5           MR. ARROYO: Do you mean before the collision  
6 or just during --

7           MR. WOODY: If there is anything before the  
8 collision, we certainly are interested in that.  
9 Everything was normal up to the time of collision.

10          MR. ARROYO: Everything was normal.

11          MR. WOODY: Okay. If you could describe what  
12 the collision, how you sensed that?

13          MR. ARROYO: We had come up to the surface,  
14 and just about right after we had leveled out, the ship  
15 started to vibrate violently. And soon after that is  
16 when the Captain made the announcement that we had  
17 collided.

18          MR. WOODY: Did this in any way change  
19 anything that you were doing? Did your equipment  
20 continue to operate normally?

21          MR. ARROYO: Yes, it did.

22          MR. WOODY: Did you observe any abnormalcies  
23 or any changes or any breakdown in the power plant that  
24 were observable from your position?

1 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

2 MR. WOODY: Okay. We have some personal  
3 questions we ask everybody we interview. Such as your  
4 age, please?

5 MR. ARROYO: Twenty two.

6 MR. WOODY: Twenty two. And your height and  
7 weight?

8 MR. ARROYO: Approximately five, seven.

9 MR. WOODY: Okay.

10 MR. ARROYO: One hundred and forty pounds.

11 MR. WOODY: Okay. And how would you  
12 characterize your health?

13 MR. ARROYO: Good health.

14 MR. WOODY: Good health. Are you under any  
15 medication prescribed by a physician?

16 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

17 MR. WOODY: Do you take any self medication  
18 such as over the counter drugs for allergies, hay  
19 fever, headaches, anything like that?

20 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

21 MR. WOODY: Okay. Wear glasses, I see you  
22 do. Are your eyes correctable to 20/20?

23 MR. ARROYO: Yes, sir.

24 MR. WOODY: Okay. In your life, prior to the

1 accident, say a month or so before the accident, were  
2 there any events in your life that were of a saddening  
3 or depressing nature or anything on the other hand that  
4 was exhilarating?

5 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

6 MR. WOODY: No good news, or bad news, no  
7 highs or lows.

8 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

9 MR. WOODY: Okay. I think that is all the  
10 questions I have.

11 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Mr. Strauch?

12 MR. STRAUCH: I have no questions.

13 COMMANDER CACCIVIO: This is Commander  
14 Caccivio. Just real quick. Are you on every watch  
15 trottleman?

16 MR. ARROYO: No, sir.

17 COMMANDER CACCIVIO: Okay. I have no  
18 questions.

19 MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay. Having no other  
20 questions, that is concludes our interview. The time  
21 is now 17:29.

22 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)