

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

In the Matter of:

MAJOR MARINE ACCIDENT :
COLLISION JAPANESE FISHERIES : NTSB Project ID
TRAINING VESSEL EHIME MARU AND : No. 51701
U.S. NAVY NUCLEAR ATTACK : DCAQ1MM022
SUBMARINE USS GREENVILLE :

Recorded Telephone Interview JACK AND PAT CLARY.
(TAPE 9, SIDES A AND B)

Tuesday,
February 20, 2001

BEFORE:

DONALD J. TYRRELL, Chief
Major Investigation Division
NTSB

QC 9 3/19/01

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EXAMINATION
OF JACK CLARY

(2:05 p.m.)

MR. TYRELL: It's 10:01 Eastern Time. It's Tuesday, February, the 20th, and I'm talking to Mr. Jack Clary.

Mr. Clary, I was wondering if you could just start off by telling me how you arranged to go on the trip above the Greenville.

What's the background as far as that?

MR. CLARY: I had toured the submarine at its dock the previous day. The Captain had showed me around. We had lunch. My wife and I had lunch in his stateroom, or in his ward room.

I was accompanied on this tour also by a representative from the Public Affairs Office of the Pacific Fleet.

And at the conclusion of the tour and lunch and all that went with it, Captain Waddle mentioned that he was taking a group on a sail or cruise the following day and asked me if we would care to go along. And I didn't hesitate to say yes.

Q And on the following day, could you more or

1 less just give me a running narrative starting from the
2 time that you arrived?

3 A Okay, yeah, sure. Captain Waddle sent a
4 driver, one of his crew members, with a car to pick us
5 up at our hotel in Honolulu early in the morning and
6 brought us to the submarine.

7 And we went aboard and, you know, he set
8 sail. We did not accompany the other civilians. My
9 wife and I were by ourselves. We were not affiliated
10 with the other civilians in any way at all. Just the
11 two of us.

12 And we set sail when Captain Waddle decided
13 he would cast off, and rode out of Pearl Harbor. He
14 allowed us to ride the top of the conning tower. We
15 climbed up the stairs up to the very top there and
16 rode, you know, rode out.

17 And then we were there for a bit and then
18 left, went back downstairs into the submarine and were
19 replaced by a couple of others who had the experience
20 of riding on top of the con.

21 The rest of the day, I think we had coffee.
22 And then the captain arranged tours inside the sub,
23 small groups that went to the various stations. We had
24 done that the day before but we went along on some of
25 them.

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1 And at the stations, each of the men who had
2 charge of that particular area were there to explain
3 what they did and what the things were about. This was
4 all in the front part of the sub. We did not go to the
5 nuclear power plant nor to the engine room. That was
6 classified, I assume.

7 We didn't go there. We went to the torpedo
8 room. We saw the sonar people. Went to the con and,
9 you know, various people that were working there. And
10 they explained what they all did.

11 And it was a rather very, very leisurely
12 morning. And then we had lunch. He divided the group
13 into two sections. He presided at one group for lunch.

14 Pat, my wife, and I were with that. And I guess his
15 executive officer presided with the second group.

16 And then we, I guess we disbursed for a
17 little bit and kind of relaxed after lunch, and then
18 were invited into the con again while he put the sub
19 through some submerge maneuvers.

20 We were submerged all this time, sure.
21 Whenever he -- he'd seen it when we submerged. I have
22 no idea where we were, when we did it because we were
23 back down in the submarine again.

24 And I assume this is all preordained by the
25 Navy when they do this.

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1 But, at any rate, for much of the trip after,
2 you know, after 8 o'clock or 8:30, we ran -- once we
3 got out in the Pacific, I guess we ran submerged.

4 And it was very quiet and very peaceful. You
5 hardly knew you were on board anything at that point.

6 After lunch, we had some -- we just kind of
7 sat around and, you know, chatted with the commander,
8 some of the officers and the men.

9 And then, as I said, we were invited into the
10 con. The thing was getting into action at that point.

11 And it ended up Commander Waddle put the submarine
12 through some submerge running tests, turns and things
13 like that.

14 You know, he handled the whole deal with his
15 people there. We stood behind him in the con well out
16 of the way of everything and watched while they went
17 through their routines.

18 And the final one, of course, was the
19 emergency ascent. And he explained what they did and
20 how it would work. And then he asked me if I would
21 care to sit in the right seat, the far right seat.

22 And I said, of course, I said yes. So he
23 said okay. They started to go through all their
24 routines that they do for this thing, and then directed
25 me to sit down.

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1 The yeoman got up, I sat down. The yeoman
 2 stood over me. And at the appropriate time, his hands
 3 were on my hands directing anything I would do. And at
 4 the appropriate time for the ascent, you know, he
 5 lifted my hands in a motion that we really both lifted
 6 the yoke and made the ascent. And that was it.

7 Q Okay. The seat that you were in, what
 8 control was it that --

9 A Plane. I think, as I recall, it said "planes
 10 and rudder".

11 Q Planes and rudder?

12 A Yeah, it's the far right seat.

13 Q Okay, facing forward, it's on the right.

14 A Correct. That's correct, yes.

15 Q At any time, did you turn it to the left or
 16 to the right?

17 A No. No. I don't recall having done that at
 18 all.

19 Q Did they give you any verbal instructions
 20 beforehand on what you were supposed to do?

21 A Just the point that when it came time, we
 22 would pull up on the yoke. That was pretty much it.

23 Q Okay, did they say how far to pull up on the
 24 yoke?

25 A No, they didn't. But, that the yeoman

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1 directed me, so he would take me up as far as it had to
2 go.

3 Q Do you have any feeling as to whether it went
4 to the full extent of the travel that it could have
5 gone, or was it at some intermediate position?

6 A I figure it went all the way. You know,
7 again, I'm really being directed by his hands.

8 Q So was it the force of this yeoman's hands
9 that actually moved the yoke?

10 A It moved my hands to move it. Yes, I think
11 we both moved together. I mean his and my hands were
12 both pulling up on the thing.

13 Q Now you were seated in the chair, and where
14 was he?

15 A Right over me.

16 Q Was he standing?

17 A Yes, he was standing over me, right.

18 Q You're both facing forward?

19 A He's probably facing sideways.

20 Q Okay. And he was able to put both hands on
21 the yoke?

22 A Pretty much, yes, uh huh, as I recall. And
23 he might have been even a little behind me. I was so
24 much concentrating on what I was supposed to do and,
25 you know, that I really wasn't conscious of what was

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1 going on around me except that when we pulled up, we,
2 you know, pulled the thing up. That's what I knew.

3 And I was conscious of his hands on the yoke.

4 Q Okay. And it was your understanding that you
5 were controlling the ascent?

6 A No. I mean I don't know what -- I don't
7 remember what I was doing. I assumed when I saw
8 planes, that it obviously had something to do with
9 surfacing the submarine.

10 Q Okay. Was this the only time that you had
11 any physical contact with any of the controls of the
12 submarine?

13 A No. Earlier that day, as we were just
14 cruising under, submerged, Captain Waddle allowed me to
15 sit there and guide. This was in the left seat, I
16 think, and for just a brief time. Just sit there.

17 There were on just cruising straight ahead.
18 We weren't going any, you know, up and down or anything
19 like that. Just to get -- see what it was like to put
20 my hands on the wheel.

21 Q You didn't actually change its position?

22 A No, no. He said "This is what..." they said,
23 "This is what we're cruising."

24 You know, on the dials, there's a designated
25 -- they're numbers, I think, zero to thirty, zero to

1 thirty. And, you know, "We're staying at this. This
2 is what you keep it at."

3 And so I just put my eyeballs straight ahead
4 on that dial and kept it where they put it.

5 Q Was there a Navy seaman with his hands on the
6 controls at the same time?

7 A I don't recall that there was. There was one
8 -- the guy whose seat I took stood over me. And, you
9 know, he made sure I was doing what I was doing,
10 although he didn't have to be because I locked my eyes
11 and my hands on that one thing. It never moved.

12 Q Did you -- you didn't actually execute any
13 maneuvers?

14 A No, no, not at all.

15 Q Did you see any of the other guests in either
16 of those positions?

17 A I don't recall. Again, I was so locked into
18 what I was doing. And once that was over, I left the
19 con. And so I don't know what happened before or after
20 I got there.

21 Q All right.

22 A And I'd say the time I was there, sitting
23 there, was not more than a couple of minutes.

24 Q Did Commander Waddle give any kind of
25 explanation of what the emergency ascent maneuver was

1 all about before?

2 A Well, as I recall, to the best of my
3 recollection, he said, "This is it there's a problem,"
4 in other words, by an aggressor "and we had to get out
5 of there in a hurry," or something to that effect,
6 "this is what we would use."

7 Q Okay. Thinking back to the time when you
8 were seated in the seat right before the maneuver
9 started for the emergency ascent, do you recall whether
10 there was a lot of talking going on in the control
11 room?

12 A No. I thought people -- something like this,
13 all through the time that we were as civilians standing
14 watching what the sub was doing, even before the last
15 maneuver, the group was very attentive.

16 I mean this is something that we never did
17 before, and we're doing what they call angles and
18 danglers, I think he referred to them as.

19 And at that time, we were standing behind him
20 and I was to the right edge of the crowd, I guess.
21 Because he took us through some very tight turns. You
22 know, you had to hang on to the bars or whatever they
23 had there you could hang on to because he put the ship
24 through some very tight maneuvers.

25 And things like that didn't allow for a lot

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1 of extraneous conversations. There were a lot of
2 "boos" and "ahhhs", you know, but nothing other than
3 that, where everybody seemed to be focused right in to
4 what he was doing and what the sub was doing.

5 Q Did they more or less find their own places
6 to stand, or did the Navy people direct people to stand
7 in particular locations?

8 A I think we were directed to stand behind him,
9 you know. And there was an area behind him. I think
10 it was like a little raised platform, as I recall it.
11 I'm not sure of that. But, they were all in a group
12 behind him and behind the conning, behind the
13 periscopes, and peering around the periscopes.

14 But, he, it is my recollection, that he and
15 his people on the bridge there had plenty of room to
16 work, were not being pushed aside, or there wasn't
17 people infiltrating their position, or infiltrating the
18 positions of the people who were steering the craft or,
19 you know, pointing over their shoulder, "What's that?
20 What does this do?"

21 That kind of thing. They were all behind the
22 people who were running this.

23 Q Do you recall at any time any of the Navy
24 people who were on watch having to move from one part
25 of the submarine to the other and have to walk around

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1 any of the guests?

2 A Do you mean in the con?

3 Q Yes.

4 A No.

5 Q They had free access to all of the equipment
6 as far as you could tell?

7 A As far as I could tell, they did, yes.

8 Q Do you recall any announcements during --
9 just before the -- do you recall going to a periscope
10 manouver that was before the emergency ascent?

11 A As such, I don't. You know, and I was, you
12 know, I was interested but all these things, these
13 routines, I wasn't familiar with. So I don't know.

14 But, when I sat down, I heard a series of
15 orders and commands and reactions, which I assumed to
16 be the normal responses by the watch as they did their
17 work, you know.

18 Q Right.

19 A And, you know, then more and more I was -- I
20 don't recall a period of time of how long I was sitting
21 in that right seat. But, it wasn't very long. I do
22 know that.

23 And the longer, the more I sat there, the
24 closer I paid attention to what was straight ahead,
25 looking straight ahead at the dials and everything,

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1 because I knew it was -- it was imminent, you know, and
2 I was really focused in on that.

3 So the voices behind me kind of blurred in my
4 attention and I was more focused on what I was going to
5 do than I was on anything else.

6 Q Do you recall anyone saying anything like "No
7 close contacts"?

8 A No, I don't recall that. I specifically
9 don't recall that.

10 Q Do you recall anybody saying anything like
11 "Emergency deep"?

12 A No, I don't recall that either.

13 Q Okay. All right. So after the emergency
14 blow -- explain to me when you first realized that
15 there was something amiss and what happened after that.

16 A Well, you know, there was a lot of noise on
17 the blow. And I guess that's normal for subs to do all
18 that. I don't know. I'm just, we're pulling back on
19 the yoke and I'm concentrating on that and I hear all
20 this noise.

21 But I did recall a bump, you know, like a
22 thud. And, you know, I didn't know what it was. I had
23 no idea. And I just thought could it be the normal
24 course of noises that the submarines make when they
25 break the surface or when they're doing some

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1 this.

2 And it wasn't until I heard somebody -- and I
3 assume it was Commander Waddle -- say:

4 "Christ, what the hell was that?"

5 Q Right.

6 A And then a couple of seconds elapsed and
7 somebody said, "I think we might have hit something,"
8 you know. And then the sub kind of settled back.

9 And, again, I'm more concentrating on what --
10 on holding on to that yoke than I am anything. And,
11 shortly thereafter, within seconds thereafter, the
12 yeoman just pretty much tossed me out of the seat, just
13 pushed me out, you know, so he could sit down and begin
14 to do -- resume what he had to do with his hands on.

15 And that was it.

16 Q Okay. And did you remain in the controls?

17 A No, they ushered us out very quickly
18 thereafter, within a minute or less even, I guess.

19 Q Where did you go?

20 A We went first to the crews mess for about
21 maybe five or so minutes. And then, since that was
22 becoming a beehive of activity, they were beginning to
23 bring rope ladders and things like that and life
24 jackets and all the stuff that they need in emergency
25 procedures, they took us down to the torpedo room,

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1 where there was not so much activity, and allowed us
2 just to wait there. We were obviously out of the way
3 of everything.

4 Q Did you -- I understand that there was a
5 video display in the crews mess. Did you --?

6 A I saw a glimpse of that, yes. Uh-huh. It
7 showed the Japanese ship in trouble in the sense that
8 it was down at the water line. The water was almost up
9 to a railing, I guess.

10 But, it heaved, you know, and then it would
11 go back up. And it looked like it was okay. And then
12 it would go back down. So, you know, it was, you know,
13 I was -- right away, you know there was trouble. That
14 somebody was in trouble.

15 But, that was -- we didn't see much of that.

16 Q Okay. So you went to the torpedo room after
17 there.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you hear, do you recall, any of the
20 announcements that came in over the intercom, or were
21 you given any kind of periodic updates?

22 A We were given periodic -- I didn't hear any
23 announcements, quite frankly. And I don't recall. Now
24 there might have been, but I don't recall them.

25 But, the group of civilians, the other

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1 civilians to which we were not attached -- in other
2 words, the other group -- came in. They had a Navy
3 Liaison Officer with them. Captain Brunbauer, I guess
4 his name was. He was the Chief of Staff COM SUBPAC.

5 And he would come down and fill us in
6 periodically, tell us what was happening. And that was
7 the only information we were getting, pretty much.

8 Q Okay, did the Captain, Commander Waddle, ever
9 come in and address --?

10 A Well, later in the afternoon. I assumed he
11 was just busy, you know, running everything. But,
12 later in the afternoon when I guess things were a
13 little more stable, he came down and talked to us.

14 And for the life of me, I can't recall
15 whether he said there'd been a collision. He might
16 have and I don't want to say he did or he didn't
17 because I don't really remember.

18 But, he kind of said that, you know,
19 everything was okay. The sub is not in danger. We're
20 fine as far as from a structural standpoint, and we are
21 -- you are perfectly safe. And, you know, reassured us
22 that everything was under control.

23 Q Did he say anything at all about, or do you
24 recall anything about rescue operations that were or
25 were not going to be conducted?

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1 A No, he did not address that -- as I recall.
2 As I -- I don't recall that he did. And I don't
3 recall-- a lot of the stuff of rescue operations was
4 after the fact, that, you know, I saw them take out
5 gear.

6 They took some out. They have some of it
7 stashed away down in the torpedo room. Some of the
8 sailors came in and got stuff out of there. There were
9 ropes. And took it up topside.

10 But I don't know what they did with it, what
11 it was used for. There was a sailor who appeared to be
12 one of the guys who would go in the water if need be.
13 He had kind of swimming attire on.

14 And --

15 Q Like a wet suit?

16 A No, it was more like swimming trunks, really.

17 Q Oh.

18 A Short khaki pants. And that was about it.

19 Q So did anything else happen that you think
20 might be germane between that time and the time that
21 you got off the submarine?

22 A No. Not -- you know, again, we were down
23 there for -- and I don't know how long. And it was
24 very emotional down there. People, you know, when we
25 were finally told -- first, we were told everything was

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