

SYNOPSIS

At about 2315 (UTC+1) on 3 May 1999 a Polish crew member fell down the stairs leading from the disco club on *Edinburgh Castle*. The ship was berthed alongside in Southampton at the time. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) was informed of the incident at 0145 on 4 May 1999. The MAIB investigation began at 0945 on the same day and was carried out by Richard Barwick (Inspector).

Mirosław Brzujszczak suffered a traumatic head injury as a result of the fall. No one saw the accident, but he was found a couple of minutes after he fell. First aid was administered, initially by the ship's crew and then by the local ambulance service. Despite strenuous attempts to save him, the crewman died shortly after midnight on 4 May 1999.

Mirosław Brzujszczak had attended a barbecue on board, which started at about 1400 on 3 May, and went ashore in the early evening. From about 2030 he was in the ship's disco club which he left shortly after 2300, saying that he was going to bed. The post mortem report shows that the blood/ethanol concentration of Mirosław Brzujszczak was very high; it is evident that he had been drinking heavily during the afternoon and evening, and this is considered to be a main cause of the accident. Mirosław Brzujszczak was on medication for blood pressure; this may have lowered his resistance to the effects of alcohol.

Mirosław Brzujszczak was wearing loose fitting footwear (flip-flops) with socks. The stairs were covered in a clear plastic protective sheet. These two factors may have been contributory to the accident. The ship's crew removed all the plastic sheeting from the stairways on 4 May 1999 as a precaution.

No recommendations have been made.