

# Nigerian Man Rescued After Three Days in Sunken Tugboat on Atlantic Bed

By Michelle Faul  
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*In this image made available Tuesday Dec. 3, 2013, Harrison Odjegba Okene looks in awe as a rescue diver surfaces into the air pocket which has kept Okene alive for nearly three days, recorded by the diver's headcam video the full impact of the miraculous encounter becomes plain the see.*

*Okene was working as a cook aboard a tugboat in the Atlantic Ocean off the Nigerian coast in June 2013, when a heavy swell caused the vessel to capsize and his boat sank to the sea bed, where his 11 colleagues drowned, but Okene was able to find an air pocket inside the sunken ship where he survived for nearly three days before being found by a group of South African rescue divers.*

*A video made available Tuesday Dec. 3, 2013*

*[[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArWGILmKCqE&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArWGILmKCqE&feature=youtube_gdata_player)], was filmed while the South African crew searched his vessel and found Okene alive before being given water and oxygen and then led to safety and to a decompression chamber for his recovery. (AP Photo/DCN Diving)*

***Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: I am a scuba diver and consider the fact that Okene survived thee days in this air pocket at nearly 100 feet deep to be a miracle. He cried out to God and God heard His plea. Praise be to God that he is still alive!***

LAGOS, Nigeria — About 100 feet down, on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, divers had already pulled four bodies out of the sunken tugboat. Then a hand appeared on a TV screen monitoring the recovery.

Everyone assumed it was another corpse, and the diver moved toward it.

“But when he went to grab the hand, the hand grabbed him!” Tony Walker, project manager for the Dutch company DCN Diving, said of the rescue in May.

Harrison Odjegba Okene, the tug’s Nigerian cook, had survived for three days by breathing an ever-dwindling supply of oxygen in an air pocket. A video of Okene’s dramatic rescue was posted on the Internet more than six months after the rescue and has gone viral this week.

As the temperature dropped to freezing, Okene, dressed only in boxer shorts, recited a psalm his wife had sent him earlier by text message, sometimes called the Prayer for Deliverance. “Oh, God, by your name, save me. ... The Lord sustains my life.” [Psalm 54] To this day, Okene believes his rescue after 72 hours underwater was the result of divine deliverance. The 11 other seamen aboard the tug Jascon 4 died.

On the video, there was an exclamation of fear and shock from Okene’s rescuers, and then joy as the realization set in that this hand belonged to a survivor. “What’s that? He’s alive! He’s alive!” a voice can be heard exclaiming.

“It was frightening for everybody,” Walker said Tuesday of that moment. “For the guy that was trapped because he didn’t know what was happening. It was a shock for the diver while he was down there looking for bodies, and we (in the control room) shot back when the hand grabbed him on the screen.” Walker said Okene couldn’t have lasted much longer. “He was incredibly lucky. He was in an air pocket, but he would have had a limited time (before) ... he wouldn’t be able to breathe anymore.”

The full video of the rescue ...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

<http://www.gazettenet.com/home/9634609-95/nigerian-man-rescued-after-3-days-in-sunken-tugboat-on-atlantic-bed>