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Wounded on Pueblo Is Set at 11 by Navy; Inquiry Due Soon

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 27 (UPI) —The Navy said today that 11 members of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo, including the skipper, were wounded when she was captured by the North Koreans nearly a year ago.

The 11 men, including the one who subsequently died, and others who later were tortured by their captors, will receive Purple Heart medals in a ceremony here next week.

Prior to today's announcement by Capt. Gale E. Krouse, the number of wounded had been listed at four, including Comdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, the captain of the Pueblo, and Fireman Duane D. Hodges, the sailor who died.

The medal to Fireman Hodges will be presented posthumously to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jess D. Hodges of Cresswell, Ore.

Captain Krouse also said that

a court of inquiry would be convened at the nearby Coronado amphibious base as soon as practical to investigate the facts surrounding the capture of the Navy intelligence ship.

"The court," Captain Krouse said, "is directed to inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the subject incident, including whether the Pueblo did at any time during the period Jan. 10, 1968, to the time of her seizure [Jan. 23], proceed within 12 miles of North Korea."

Captain Krouse, who is the senior Judge Advocate General for the commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet, said the court would also determine whether any such action violated any order issued to Comdr. Bucher.

The Captain said the court had no punitive power, but that it could recommend courts-martial. He declined to speculate whether such action appeared likely.