

A008

23 JAN 69  
220 AES

ryyr

With Pueblo Bjt, 400, 2 takes, 700 total

Text of Messages

CORONADO, Calif. AP - The USS Pueblo held a running message exchange with the headquarters of the commander of naval forces in Japan during her seizure by North Korean gunboats.

Unclassified parts of the exchange were read Wednesday into the record of the Navy's court of inquiry into the Pueblo captured.

As read by E. Miles Harvey, civilian attorney for the Pueblo skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, the exchange follows:

Headquarters: Sorry mate, kind of a boot on this circuit. What time do you want next sked?

Pueblo: This is Bailey here. . . We still got company.

P: Who is on duty now? This is Bailey. Got more company outside and more coming.

P: It not too badje ikoo but ly. We been here two weeks now and that not bad but when we get under way it gets so rough that you can't do anything, so I will be gla rm.o.back and I sure could use some liberty now. That part starting to get rough now. Didn't think I would miss the old lady so much.

P: It is worse out here now. Got more company and not doing so good with them.

Hq: Know what you mean 'bout that company and will stay on so you can come to me.

P: They plan to tpen fire on us now. They plan to open fire on us now. They plan to open fire on us now.

P: Noth Korean war vessels plan to open fire and the ships' position . ?

P: We are being boarded. We are being boarded. We are being boarded. We are being boarded.

SOS, SOS, SOS, SOS, repeated 30 times and followed by ship's position .

Bucher interrupted the reading at this point to tell the court the report of boarding was in fact an error. He said it was surmised by the radioman, who had been told a boarding party was approaching, but Bucher said he maneuvered the Pueblo away from that boarding party and North Koreans didn't come on board until after the ship was fired upon and chased in the sea.

P: We are holding emergency destruction of classified equipment and documents . We need help. We are holding emergency destruction we need support. SOS, SOS, SOS. Please send assistance. Please send assistance. SOS, SOS, SOS, SOS.

P: Please send assistance

P: We are now being escora k2, u\$2probably Wonsan, Wonsan, Wonsan.

P: Are you sending assistance (repeated three times)?

HQ: Word has gone to all authorities. Commander naval forces Japan is requesting assistance, what key list of classified material do you have left. Please advise if it appears your communication spaces will be entered.

MORE

ZR-BJ211aes Jan. 23



23 Jan 69

211 aes to  
358 aes

A009

qyy

CORONADO, Take 2, Messages Text, A008: entered.

P: Have been requested to follow into Wonsan. Have three wounded and one man with leg blown off. Have not used any weapons nor uncovered .50-caliber machine guns. Destroying all key listed and as much electronic equipment as possible. How about some help? These guys mean business. Have sustained small wound in rectum. Do not intend to offer any resistance. Do not know how long will be able to hold up circuit and do not know if communication spaces will be entered.

HQ: Roger, roger, we doing all we can. Commander of naval forces for Japan on hotline. Last I got was Air Force gonna help you with some aircraft but can't really say as commander coordinating with I presume Korean force for some F105s, but this is unofficial, but I think that's what will happen. On the air as long as you can. We staying right with you.

P: Roger, will keep this circuit up until the last minute and sure could use some help now.

HQ: Roger, roger, we still with you and doing all we can. Everyone really turning to (trying) and figure by now Air Force got some birds winging your way.

P: Sure hope so. We're pretty bush with this destruction right now. Can't see for the smoke.

HQ: Roger, roger. Wish I could help more. All information you passed being sent to area commander and they in turn coordinating for whatever action gotta be taken. Sure process already being initiated for some immediate relief. Commander naval forces Japan got all info.

P: Roger your last and sure hope someone does something. We are helpless. Cannot do anything but wait.

Hq: Who I got that end of circuit? What status of classified materialo??destroy?5cekJUN OAINGE K&KW7, KW7 and some ~~par~~ *(care cards)*

P: Destruction of publications has been ineffective. Suspect several will be compromised.

Hq: Can you give me a list of what you haven't destroyed? Can you give me list of what you haven't destroyed?

P: Have been directed to come to all stop and being boarded. Being boarded.

Hq: Roger. Your last on way to commander naval forces Japan.

P: Got four men injured and one critically and going off the air now and destroying this gear.

Hq: Can you continue transmitting? Can you continue transmitting?

No reply.

BJ22Caes Jan. 23