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CORONADO, Take 2, Pueblo, A028: for me.

If anything, Bucher left the impression he was working for them—much like a bus driver assigned to take sightseers where they want to go.

"May I say," Bucher told the court, "that my job as commanding officer of that ship was to place that ship in the most effective and useful location in order that we could collect the maximum of intelligence."

Bucher said his limited authority meant:

—"I had to rely on the research department to take care of all my crypto (code) requirements."

—"I was not cleared for some of the materials they the intelligence working areas carried."

—He was never able to observe how Harris conducted drill in destroying secret material in case of capture.

Yet Bucher said he was ultimately responsible for the security of all the classified material, including Pueblo "because that material was on board my ship."

So when North Koreans opened fire on the Pueblo, Bucher said, "my primary concern was . . . to actually destroy the classified materials." When he began to feel "that I was not getting a sufficient number of reports to keep me apprised of the situation," he decided to inspect the destruction of classified documents in Harris' intelligence compartments himself.

"There was a steel door located in the research space," Bucher said. "This door was provided with a triple locking system and was necessary because of the security in the spaces."

"I knocked on the door and it was opened to me. I came in, and I noticed on the deck . . . at least three large naval mattress covers which apparently were full of documents . . . and I presumed they were all classified . . .

"I was to say the least quite surprised to see the volume of material that was on the deck in this compartment . . . I spoke to Lt. Harris and I said words to the effect, 'Let's get rid of this material right now.' And he replied that he was getting—that the material was being destroyed and being thrown over the side, and further indicated that crypto materials had been destroyed."

Bucher said he left for a few moments to send messages to his headquarters in Japan, then returned to Harris' compartment and repeated his destruction order.

When he returned to the bridge, Bucher said, he got a telephone call from Harris asking permission to message headquarters that he was not able to complete destruction of all the publications.

Q. Rear Adm. Edward Grimm: "How much additional time was needed?"

A. Bucher: "Sir, I did not ask that question. At that time . . . I personally thought all the material I had seen, which were at least three large mattress covers full, had been by this time thrown over the side . . . I received nothing to indicate that the material had not gone over the side, and from the way Lt. Harris spoke to me, indicated that was just a few pieces of material left which he could not get destroyed properly."

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CORONADO, Pueblo, A029. Add: properly.

Later, after North Koreans boarded the Pueblo, Bucher said he was ordered to tour the ship with his captors and when they arrived in Harris' compartment "I was rather surprised to still see a couple of mattress covers which were apparently full of classified materials."

"It did surprise me, because as I had testified before, I had seen this material there some 20 to 30 minutes before this and perhaps as much as 40, and I had no prior indication that the material had not been jettisoned or destroyed."

CS441aes Jan. 21



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Pueblo Bjt 500 2 Takes

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - The question of how much authority Cmar. Lloyd M. Bucher really had over intelligence operations on his ship seems to be getting a thorough airing before the court of inquiry into the capture of the USS Pueblo.

The question came into focus as Lt. Stephen R. Harris, in charge of the PUEBLO'S INTELLIGENCE GATHERING MISSION, SPENT TWO HOURS IN CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY Thursday and was ordered to return Monday.

The court went into a three-day recess for the weekend at a Navy doctor's recommendation to give Bucher a chance to rest. He testified nearly all of last week and has attended every session, open or closed. In addition, the court of five admirals said it wanted to catch up with administrative chores.

Harris was regarded as a key witness because Bucher testified early in his story of the capture that he had told the 20-year-old lieutenant to destroy material which fell into the hands of the North Koreans.

The Navy declined to tell about Harris' testimony, saying it was classified in the interest of national defense. But a spokesman said it concerned the "operation and mission" of the Pueblo that Harris was questioned by counsel for the court and Bucher, and that wharris was not warned he was under any suspicion of breaking any Navy regulations. Such a warning has been given to Bucher.

Part of how Bucher operated the Pueblo was determined by a division of authority between himself and Harris. While Bucher had complete military command and ultimate responsibility of the ship, he has told the court that the commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet "designated that the operational and management control of the research spaces working areas for intelligence be under the command and jurisdiction of Lt. Harris . . .

"He did not directly report to me."

It wasn't always that way, Bucher said. "While back in Washington, initially being briefed for my mission on this ship, I was told . . . That the research detachment would be in fact a department on our ship, the same fashion it was being done elsewhere, I went back to Puget Sound to report to my ship with the idea that the research detachment would be a department.

"I later found out that the people from CINCPACFLT (commander in chief of the Pacific fleet) -that they thought that it would be much better in fact if the detachment would remain a detachment instead of a department.

"I wanted them a department so I would have positive control over them in all areas, not only in military but in administrative as well."

On occasion, Bucher said, the question of his authority over Harris' staff became "a very tender area and CINCPACFLT rep

esentatives for the research department on occasion made it known to me those people were not working for me."

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