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Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - An intelligence technician testified he did not hear the intelligence officer of the USS Pueblo issue any orders while the ship was being attacked by North Koreans, the Navy said Tuesday.

The technician said that he himself gave the order to start destroying classified equipment and papers, and the crew spent only 10 or 15 minutes of the hour the ship was under siege trying to burn secret documents, the Navy said.

Chief Communications Technician James F. Kell, 72, of Honolulu, testified in secret Monday before a board of inquiry investigating the Pueblo's capture a year ago. The Navy issued an official summary of his remarks Tuesday.

Of the burning of secret documents, the summary said: "Kell said burning of classified documents ceased when he received word from someone to stop burning. He couldn't remember who gave the word . . ."

The summary said Kell and Senior Chief Communications Technician Ralph D. Bouden of Washington, D.C., both said instructions for emergency destruction of classified documents and equipment were not posted until after the first North Korean gunboat appeared.

Bouden said "not all of the personnel were familiar with the ship's destruction bill (instructions) and that he has never at any time du

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Bouden said "not all of the personnel were familiar with the ship's destruction bill instructions and that he has never at any time during his 14 years of naval service been through a destruction drill," the Navy said. "This included his time on the Pueblo."

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When the North Koreans came on board, the Navy said, Bouden's testimony showed "he walked through the main space on the way out of the intelligence center and observed a lot of material on the deck."

"You almost had to wade through it," the Navy quoted Bouden as saying.

Kell said he gave the word to begin destroying classified equipment and papers in the intelligence center, the Navy said, and "further testified that at no time during the destruction attempts did he receive an order from Lt. Stephen Harris in charge of the intelligence detachment or did he hear Lt. Harris give an order to a subordinate.

"Chief Kell made two attempts to have material thrown over the side during the destruction period," the Navy said. "He instructed Marine Sgt. Robert J. Hammond to throw classified gear through a port hole . . . but Hammond was unable to get the port hole open.

"Another attempt by one of Kell's men, Communications Technician 2-c Peter Langenberg, resulted in a neck wound for him as he stepped out through a hatch.

"Kell said he believed the reason the ship was being fired upon was because of the burning of classified material and the smoke therefrom."

Harris was not present in the closed court when Kell and Bouden testified, the Navy said.

In response to questions, a Navy spokesman said Harris received no warning that he is under suspicion of breaking regulations. The Pueblo's skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, has received such a warning.

Harris testified in closed and open session last week. The Navy said Harris's closed session, like most of the secret testimony from Kell and Bouden, was classified in the interest of national security.

In his public testimony, Harris said his staff didn't destroy all secret documents because gunfire kept them from tossing it overboard, and because of what he described as an excessive amount of material and the heavy smoke from trying to burn it.

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