

Pueblo ML Bjt  
By HARRY NASH

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NORFOLK, Va. AP — Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher's civilian attorney said a Navy court of inquiry's two-hour tour of another intelligence ship Saturday gave its members "an appreciation of the situation on the Pueblo" at the time of her capture by North Korean forces.

While the visit to the USS Palm Beach—it was the first time any of the court's five admirals had been aboard an intelligence ship—was "educational and instructive," E. Miles Harvey told newsmen.

"It adds to the court's storehouse of knowledge in evaluating testimony," he said.

Harvey, who accompanied the court members on their tour of the ship, "YOU CAN SEE WHERE THEY the Pueblo's crew destroyed publications...where the Korean guard stood... You could understand the difficulty in going topside...the exposure of the gunmounts.

"We had thought the Pueblo's research spaces were larger than they turned out to be. We know now how crowded the Pueblo was...adding to the confusion."

His tour of the Palm Beach, Harvey said, made him "more sympathetic with the problems Cmdr. Bucher the Pueblo's skipper was faced with."

Recalling Bucher's testimony that he had picked up the wrong telephone prior to the Pueblo's capture by the North Koreans, Harvey said, "Today aboard the Palm Beach we saw how easy this was to do with two identical phones side by side in a crowded space."

Harvey summed up the tour of the Palm Beach this way: "This was one of the most beneficial days we've spent."

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The Banner is berthed in Japan, and the court members did not want to travel as far as Japan to inspect her.

The Pueblo and Palm Beach both were converted into intelligence ships at the same time in the Navy shipyards at Bremerton, Wash.

Members of the court, who flew to Norfolk from California Friday, departed on their return flight shortly before noon.

On Monday the court will begin its fifth week of hearings. Court sessions are expected to last about three more weeks, said Capt. Vincent Thomas, the court's public affairs counsel.

Thomas told newsmen, who were not permitted aboard the Palm Beach, that the first 30 minutes of the tour was spent in briefings on the ship's characteristics by her officers. The court was not briefed on the ship's mission.

Thomas said the five admirals were conducted "on a very thorough tour" of the Palm Beach. Among the things they saw were water soluble paper on which classified material is written and equipment for the destruction of classified material.

An Atlantic Fleet spokesman said some of the equipment was installed aboard the Palm Beach after the Pueblo was captured in January 1968. It is designed to permit quicker destruction of more material by fewer men.

After the court members left the Palm Beach they visited another ship similar in structure to the Pueblo. This ship is the Range Recoverer, a telemetry vessel whose chief mission is monitoring signals from rockets and satellites sent aloft from Cape Kennedy by the national space agency.

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