

Pueblo Officer Says Koreans Beat Him Until He

By BERNARD WEINRAUB
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A thin, prematurely gray-haired Navy officer spoke quietly today of the hours that North Korean soldiers had beat, kicked and tormented him into signing a false confession that the U.S.S. Pueblo was spying in North Korean territorial waters. "They kicked me in the head and chest," Lieut. Edward R. Murphy Jr., the Pueblo's executive officer and navigator, told the five admirals sitting as a naval court of inquiry. "My legs were tired, my muscles were quivering, I lost control."

"I was kicked in the head, and my ear split open," he said slowly in the packed, silent naval amphitheater here. "The floor was covered with blood. My shorts were bathed with blood. I remember passing out and waking up and feeling warm and cold at once."

"My tongue, my right side of the mouth was paralyzed. I had no control of my hands. All I knew was they were going to get what they wanted. I thought it was no use to resist any longer."

"All I could do was nod and say yes and mumble. I told them I was ready to see the senior colonel [and confess]."

Speaks Into Microphone

Speaking intensely but with little apparent emotion, Lieutenant Murphy kept his long, slim hands folded tightly on the table before him as he answered questions into a microphone.

He said the beatings, in frigid rooms in Pyongyang, were coupled with the loud playing of a tape recording hel-

believed to be in the voice of Comdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, skipper of the Pueblo, which was seized by the North Koreans in January of 1968.

"I remember hearing this and feeling it was not his way of expressing things," said Lieutenant Murphy. "It was a rather monotone voice, and it said that the Pueblo was captured in coastal waters and we had been spying against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other trite phrases."

The assistant counsel for the court, Comdr. William E. Clemons, asked the 31-year-old officer: "Did it affect you?"

"Yes, Sir," Lieutenant Murphy said. "I knew the information had been gotten. In my mind, I knew my resistance was not in any way going to help the national security of the United States."

Lieutenant Murphy was the

Vietnam Casualties

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP)—The Defense Department today identified the following servicemen from the New York area as having been killed in Vietnam:

Army

GATES, Richard P., Specialist 4, Johnstown, N. Y.
HAMILTON, Robert T., Specialist 4, South Ozone Park, Queens.
SMITH, Joseph J., First Lieut., Bogota, N. J.

Marine Corps

JOHNSON, Robert L., Staff Sgt., Falconer, N. Y.
SMITH, James W., Lance Cpl., Washingtonville, N. Y.

Air Force

COLASUONNO, Vincent, Major, Long Beach, L. I.

first witness this afternoon as the court of inquiry into the seizure of the Pueblo moved

into its final phase, the 11-month imprisonment of the ship's 83 surviving crewmen. This is expected to last about three weeks.

Moments after the opening of today's hearing, Commander Clemons faced Lieutenant Murphy and asked: "During this period of detention, did you depart from the tenets of the code of conduct?"

"Yes, Sir, I did," Lieutenant Murphy murmured.

This code—signed by President Eisenhower in 1955 after the numerous confessions of Americans in Korean war prison camps—says servicemen are bound to give only name, rank, serial number and date of birth if captured.

Lieutenant Murphy, staring at the five admirals, told them:

"They said we were spies and not considered military pri-

C... ..

'Confessed'

soners and protected by the Geneva Convention. They said we could not claim the protection accorded military personnel."

He said the North Koreans began beating him on Jan. 27 or 28, four or five days after the Pueblo was captured by submarine chasers and gunboats in the Sea of Japan. On Jan. 29, after hours of physical torment, the executive officer he recalled, he was ordered to sign the confession.

At the first beating session, crouch on the floor of an empty cell. A rough one-and-a-half-inch-thick stick was placed behind his knees.

"I was told to roll back with the stick, to sit at attention against the stick," he said slowly. "I was told to put my hands above my head and they would hit my chest and slap me around."