

Red Goof On Pueblo Related

CORONADO (San Diego County) — (AP) — North Koreans apparently failed to realize the full value of the highly trained intelligence specialists they captured on the USS Pueblo, a crewman says.

"A lot of communications technicians weren't interrogated at all," Communication Technician 1.C. Michael Barrett, 31, of Kalamazoo, Mich., told a Navy court of inquiry yesterday.

"It would have seemed they would have known they had a wonderful source of information in you," said Rear Adm. Edward Grimm, a member of the court. "Why didn't they beat you more?"

"I don't know," Barrett replied. "It surprised me very much . . . that's why I think they really weren't aware of what they had."

A little more than a third of the intelligence ship's 83-member crew were communications technicians.

Barrett said it seemed to him the North Koreans "didn't really know what they were after," judging by the questions they asked him.

Several more crewmen told of their experiences in "The Gypsy Tea Room," the name the Pueblo crew gave a 12-by-15-foot room where men were taken, offered liquor and asked to accept a visitor sympathetic to Communism when they returned to the United States.

All the crewmen said they either refused, or agreed to accept such a visitor with the intention of turning him over to the FBI.