

Pueblo Skipper Set for Final Plea

Coronado

USS Pueblo skipper Lloyd Bucher, in jeopardy of court-martial for losing his ship without a fight, makes his final plea today before a Navy court of in-

quiry.

The Navy yesterday released secret testimony given by Bucher Tuesday that he was warned twice before the Pueblo's last voyage no rescue forces would be avail-

able if he were attacked.

Bucher also said the Pueblo's espionage work had been "unproductive," before the seizure, but the mission was continued because they were meeting with limited suc-

cess.

An engineering expert on small ships told the court yesterday that two ordinary methods of scuttling were available to Bucher. One would have required an hour

and a quarter to sink the Pueblo, and could have been carried out only by a highly trained crew. The other would have taken more than three hours.

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