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Pueblt Lead  
By RICHARD E. MEYER  
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CORONADO, Calis. AP

A husky quartermaster, acclaimed by Pueblo officials said today he received 250 to 300 blows from his North Korean captors—some with a four-by-four board—because he refused to

inform on fellow crewmen.

Quartermaster 1.C. Charles Law Jr., of Chehalis, Wash., told a Navy court of inquiry he also took beatings voluntarily for things other crewmen had done.

Law, sitting erect in the witness chair with his hands folded in his lap, said he adhered to the U.S. Code of Conduct for prisoners

The code says U.S. prisoners of war should give their captors only their name, rank, serial number and date of birth. The court is investigating the conduct of PUEZLO CREWMEN IN North Korean prisons.

"What was the single most significant thing that made you violate the code?" asked Cmdr. William Clemons, assistant counsel to the court

Said Law; "We waited for the UNITED States to come in and annihilate this bunch of barbarians . . . This did not happen. And we were concerned with them kicking you and beating you and threatening to kill you . . . and other men were getting hurt . . . and we realized we were just going to have to sit there until someone kind of agreeent got us out . . . and we did it for survival, sir."

LAW SAID HE TOOK HIS WORST BEATINGS DURING WHAT THE CREW CALLED "Hell Week" . . . the final few days before release shortly

before Christmas

"I was taken to an interrogation room at 10 o'clock in the morning on Dec. 22 and I was there until approximately one o'clock in the morning Saturday the 14th," Law said.

"I was beaten intermittently for eight hours . . . I was in a kneeling position . . . in front of a desk . . . and I was hit with a circular

piece of wood about the size of a two-by-two."

When it broke in half, Law said, the North Koreans used both pieces to

hit him across the shoulders and back.

He said the North Koreans wanted him to confess that other men had given vulgar gestures in propaganda photographs, carved on dining room tables and sent messages through crossword puzzles—and that he had instigated them.

He also said they wanted him to confess he was a CIA agent operating under cover.

"WHY DID YOU RESIST?" asked Clemons.

"It seemed like the thing to do at the time, sir," Law replied.

"Hell, I was not a CIA agent."

At another point during the imprisonment, Law said, paper over windows got wet during the crew's bath time and some men were able to see out of the compound.

"They wanted to know who did it (removed the paper)," Law said. "I said I DIDN'T KNOW. They kept after me. Finally I said, 'I'll take the responsibility. I did it.' But they wouldn't buy that and they made me go around and find out who did it. Finally communications electrician 1.C. Victor Escamilla said 'To hell with it! If you have to have somebody I'll say I did it.' So they punished him for having done it and punished me for saying I did it."

Whether Puezlo crewmen have described Law as a tower of strength and a natural leader.

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By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - Pueblo crewmen, in telling about their 11-month imprisonment and brutal treatment by North Koreans, frequently have described

Quadrant as a tower of strength and a natural leader of men. "Law probably demonstrated the finest qualities of petty officer leadership I've ever seen," wlt. j.g. Frederick Schumache

Jr., the ship's operations officer, testified.

"Law was in charge of the enlisted men," said Lt.

j.g. Timothy Harris, supply officer. "The way he conducted himself was outstanding." Law, 27, of Chehalis, Wash., was called to tell his own story today to the Navy court of inquiry investigating the intelligence ship's seizure and the conduct of its crew as prisoners.

The court may recommend anything from courts-martial to medals.

Law relayed information from the officers—each held in a separate room—to the enlisted men, who were held from four to eight to a room, in two compounds near Pyongyang.

Harris told the court "Anytime anything went wrong the Koreans blamed Law. He took the brunt of the punishment. He was the contact between the officers and the enlisted men."

Law was married here last week to a San Diego secretary, Marie L. Cherry. He met her at a party last December shortly after the crew was freed. The Pueblo was captured off North Korean in January 1968.

Law told a news conference shortly after his return he was struck at least 25 times by the North Koreans with fists and boards.

"I was mostly cut around the head and neck . . . beaten with a two-by-two about four or five feet long," Law said. "I was in a kneeling position on the deck in front of his desk. The guard was using this club."

He said he also received "kicks and fists to various parts of the body . . . I believe one kick to the groin . . . a few on thighs and legs."

CWO Gene Howard Lacy, the ship's engineering officer; Timothy Harris and Lt. STEPHEN Harris, who was in charge of the ship's intelligence detail, testified Wednesday.

Lacy and Stephen Harris said they were struck repeatedly by captors in quest of spy confessions. Both said they felt they violated the U.S. Code of Conduct for prisoners. Both said they should give only name,

rank, serial

number and date of birth.

Timothy Harris, however,

gave the most dramatic testimony. He burst into sobs as he said he wanted to commit suicide while a captive but could not. He said instead he killed a potted plant they gave him because of his hatred for the North Koreans.

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