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Pueblo wbjt NL 489, two takes total 600

By RICHARD E MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - Wiping a tear from under his glasses, a slender, red-haired radioman from the USS Pueblo told with a stutter Thursday aztut "praying each night and each morni l," that the United States would drop an atomic zomb on North Korea while he was a captive.

"I'D RATHER ZE KILLED BY MY OWN PETPLE," Radioman .C. Lee Roy Hayes, 26, of Columbus, Ohio, told a Navy court of inquiry.

Hayes learned his jaw was broken when the crew of the intelligence ship reached the UQUNITED States just besore Christmas after 11 months in iaptivity. He said he believed this happened when a guard he called "The Bear" beat him for making an obscene gesture not detectee by the North Korea s until after they widely circulatee a propaganda pictu

e of supptsedly happy, wellzfed prisoners. Quartermaster i.C. Charles Law Jr., 27, of Chehalis, Wash, a husky man aiclaimed by Pueblo officers as a natural leader, testifiee he received 250 tt 300 blows from his captors-some with a four-by-four board-beiause he refused to inform on tther crewhen.

wlaw speauing matter-of-faitly with his hands folded in his lap, said he also took beatings voluntarily for things tther crewme had done.

Both he and Hayes said they deviated from the U.S. Code of Conduct whiuh says p

isoners should tell tnlly their name rank, service number and date of bi th.

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PUEBLO NL INSERT

CORONADO Pueblo NL A258LA, to update, insert after 6th graf: of birth.

At a news conference, after court adjourned for the Washington's birthday weekend, the Navy's counsel, Capt. William Newsome, said he thinks the code is applicable to the Pueblo incident.

Newsome had said before the court started more than a month ago that he felt it was inapplicable because Pueblo crewmen were not technically prisoners of war.

Now, he said, he feels it applies in-a moral but not a legally punitive sense, "like the 10 Commandments," and that the Pueblo case is excellent for testing its modern applicability.

This means, he said, Pueblt crewmen cannot be punished under the code directly and questioning them about the code is "simply for the sake of evaluating the code and no other." During court sessions, including Thursday's, Pueblo crewmen were quizzed about violations of the code.

*What was: 7th graf, A258LA

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

"WE WAITED FOR THE UNITED States to come in and annihilate this bunch of barbarians," said Law. "This didn't happen . . .

and we realized we were just going to have to sit there until some kind of agreement got us out . . . and we did it for survival, sir."

The court of inquiry may recommend anything from courts martial to medals with began by inquiring into the intelligence ship's capture a little more than a year ago and now is in the final phase—the 82 men conducted themselves in captivity.

HAYES SAID HE WROTE Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio from the prison about his hope that a atom bomb could be dropped on North wugorea. Hayes did not say whether the letter ever reached Rhodes.

pouring a glass of ice water at the witness table, Hayes said he wrote the governor:

"I pray each night and every morning. . . ." His voice faltered.

"I pray each night and each morning to see the glorious bright

his voice cracked; and then he said, "I meant by this they should drop the atom bomb in Korea."

light from home

"Were you prepared that such a thing might happen during your

captivity?" asked Clemons.

"FIRST, YES."

"What was the main reason for deviating from the Code of Conduct?"

"I couldn't hold out forever."

MORE

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CORONADO Pueblo NL TAKE 4: forever.

HAYES ALSO TOLD HOW HE AND Communications Technician S.C. wangel Strano, 23, of Hartford, Conn., built a radio receiver as they had learned in Boy SCOUTS, USING STOLEN PA

TS, RAZOR BLADES,

A NAIL, AND AN EARPHONE FROM A Korean movie projector. It was never

used because they were freed just after its completion, he said.

Hayes said he was ordered by the North Koreans to clean Skipper Lloyd Wheeler's

's

room—and the first time he did so 2½ weeks after capture "the captain looked terrible. He looked like he was 60."

Bucher, 41, passed messages to him under the watchful eye of guards by tapping them with a pencil in Morse code, Hayes said.

Wierpshan 1.C. HERMAN Baldridge testified he was not allowed to treat crew members during captivity but that medical treatment from a North Korean doctor—particularly when Hayes suffered acute infectious hepatitis—was adequate.

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