

CORONADO, Calif. AP - A young Pueblo crewman said today North Koreans performed surgery on his wounds on a bare table in a prison room without anaesthetic after he lay in his own filth for three days.

"Was it painful?" asked Navy counsel.

"Yes, sir. Very painful," replied Electrician's Mate 2.C. Steven Woelk, 20, of Alta Vista, Kan.

He testified at a court of inquiry into the capture of the Pueblo last year by the North Koreans and the conduct of its men during 11 months in prison.

Woelk, who sat with his hands in his lap and a blond thatch of hair falling nearly to his eyebrows, said he was tearing up classified material of his own volition when the Pueblo was hit by a cannon shell from a North Korean gunboat.

Shrapnel struck him in the upper right side and right buttock. He said he got first aid from the ship's medic, was placed on a stretcher, and when Koreans boarded they carried him off the ship.

"I was kicked and hit and dragged on the ground most of the time," Woelk said, "and every time I moaned I was kicked or hit by hand."

"I was operated on the third day after we arrived at the point of detention," Woelk said. ". . . The operation was performed three to four rooms down from the one I was in. It was a regular room. There were no beds . . . I was laid on a table on a stretcher . . . They brought in everyone they needed to operate . . . There was no special lighting. It was barely adequate."

Woelk said he was taken back to the room with the other wounded and spent eight or nine days there without any medical care except first aid from Commissaryman 3.C. Dale E. Rigby of Ogden, Utah.

"What were the conditions in the room?" asked E. Miles Harvey, attorney for the Pueblo's skipper, Lloyd M. Bucher.

"I couldn't move," Woelk replied. "The smell—you couldn't believe the smell—the whole room was rotten. I was draining continuously."

Meanwhile, in Washington, a special House subcommittee opened what could be the first of a series of congressional probes into the Pueblo's capture.

In testimony here Monday, Radioman 2.C. Charles Henry Crandell Jr., 24, said a North Korean guard ordered his shoes shined, and "I refused."

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Pueblo 180

CORONADO, Calif. AP - A North Korean guard ordered his shoes shined, and "I refused," says Radioman 2.C.

Charles Henry Crandell Jr., 24, of the USS Pueblo.

"He called me out of ranks and put a gun to my head and started this playing-with-the-gun bit," continued Crandell, from El Reno, Okla.

"I still refused," Crandell said, "and then their duty officer came out and made his stop."

Crandell testified Monday before a Navy court of inquiry into the capture of the intelligence ship by the North Koreans last year and the behavior of its crew during 11 months of imprisonment.

Five intelligence specialists for the ship, two enginemen and a boatswain's mate were summoned to testify today.

The Navy said the court, in its seventh week, could end about the middle of next week. The Pueblo's captain, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, will be one of the last witnesses.

Bucher already has testified about the ship's capture and his torture during imprisonment. He has said he will have some final statements.

His attorney