

Crewman Recites False Confession Before the Pueblo Inquiry

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CORONADO, Calif., March 6 — Speaking in a singsong voice tinged with sarcasm, a 24-year-old Pueblo crewman showed today how he mocked the ship's North Korean captors in a filmed confession.

The sailor, Communications Technician 2d Cl. Ralph McClintock, arose before the court of inquiry here and read the statement he made last Sept. 12 at a rehearsed news conference in detention barracks near Pyongyang.

It was the first time in the seven-week-old inquiry that a Pueblo crewman had read his confession. Numerous crewmen, however, have testified that their public contempt for the North Koreans was evidenced in the stilted language, double entendres and voice intonations used in propaganda broadcasts.

Communications Technician McClintock recited his statement at the request of E. Miles Harvey, the civilian attorney for Comdr. Lloyd M. Bucher.

Half-Sneering Voice

The tall, baldish enlisted man, who was an intelligence specialist on the Pueblo, stood up before the five admirals on the inquiry and read in a half-sneering, half-humorous voice: "I am Petty Officer 3d Cl. McClintock.

"My most ardent desire is to

return to my country and to my home in Massachusetts and to be reunited once again with my widowed, grief-stricken mother, my worried family and my dear friends.

"Oh how I long to walk down the quiet shaded streets of my home town, to swim again in the rolling surf of old Cape Cod Bay and to indulge in the sumptuous feast of one of Mom's famous apple pies.

"Since my capture I have made a complete and sincere apology to the Korean people for the crimes I have committed.

Given in September

"I have come to see the errors I have made in the past, and now if I may realize my most ardent desire, I wish to return to school in the United States.

"Now all I ask is that the correspondents present here today make our desires known to the people of the United States.

"The desire of the crew of the United States ship Pueblo is simply to return to our beloved homeland.

"I swear on my life that if I am ever allowed to return to my home and family I will never again commit such a naughty crime as espionage against such a peace-loving people as these. Thank you very much for your help."

Communications Technician

McClintock, who is from Milton, Mass., made this confession at the September news conference for about a dozen Pueblo crewmen who appeared before a crowd of journalists, mostly North Korean.

The young sailor identified one participant, however, as an American. He said that Lionel Martin, a correspondent for The Guardian of New York, had appeared to listen to the Pueblo crewmen.

During the prolonged testimony in recent weeks, the Pueblo crewmen have emphasized that the ship's officers and enlisted men departed from the code of conduct for two key reasons. The code tells American servicemen to give only name, rank, serial number and date of birth if captured.

One of the reasons was that the North Koreans were seeking personal information about each man—his background, his schooling, his training—that were easily obtainable from the records and secret papers seized from the Pueblo.

'Something Strange'

"It was something strange," said Technician McClintock. "They captured the ship complete with service records, pay records, everything—look, stock and barrel."

The second reason that the crew signed false confessions

that the Pueblo was spying within the 12-mile territorial waters, as contended by North Korea, was underscored once again today in the stories of beatings, kickings and mental torment.

"What was the main reason that you departed from the code of conduct," Comdr. William E. Clemens, the court counsel, asked Communications Technician McClintock.

One of 28 in Research Unit "Fear, Sir," the sailor replied. "Out and out fear."

As one of 28 "communication technicians" on the Pueblo, McClintock served in the secret research quarter, which conducted the bulk of the ship's electronic intelligence off the Korean coast. This included checking shoreline radar and picking up submarine movements in the area.

"The C.T.'s had the biggest worry because of the security factor," he said. "Captain Bucher told us to lie about anything and everything."

The sailor indicated that the North Koreans questioned him intensely and sought, at times, to treat him warmly. At one point, Communications Technician McClintock recalled, the North Koreans kept him more than one hour in a recreation area called "The Gypsy Tea Room."

"There were four Koreans in the room, and one of them was extremely big, about 6 feet 4 inches and 270 pounds," he told the court.

"He acted extremely friendly put his arm around my shoulder, slapped me on the back and called me Mac."

"They told me three things and made me swear I wouldn't tell anybody," the enlisted man went on. "They asked me if I'd accept a Korean in my house

when I returned, and I said, 'Yes, I'd accept a friend if he came as a friend.'"

"They also asked me if I would help Americans come to Korea — they said do not worry about money — and said when I came home I would meet a man named Sim. They repeated his name three times, Sim."

So far, several Pueblo crewmen have told the court that the North Koreans told them to expect visits in the United States from men named "Sim," "Kim," and "Lee."

Another crewman today who told the court of conversations in the Gypsy Tea Room was one of the two Negroes on the Pueblo, Boatswain's mate 2d Cl. William C. Bussell.

"They talked about riots and stuff in the States, and said, 'When you get back to the States, you should take part in the Negro upsurge,'" said the tall, slim, 24-year-old Kentuckian.

Capt. William R. Newsome, the counsel for the court, asked: "Was there constant reference to your joining any Negro groups?"

Asked About Negro Protests

"They asked me to," the enlisted man replied. "But not any specific ones."

"Were you questioned about life in the United States?"

"The duty officer would call me aside and ask me about life in the States."

"Were they curious about your life, you think, because of your race?" asked Captain Newsome.

"Yes, sir," said Boatswain's Mate Bussell.

"What did you tell them?"

"I told them the way it was, sir."

"You told them the truth?"

"Yes, sir."