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Pueblo Bjt 2nd NL

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP — Conduct of the entire Pueblo crew during North Korean captivity was praised Monday by the intelligence ship's skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, as he testified on questions he felt had not been answered by the Navy's eight-week inquiry.

Bucher also offered a list of 49 officers and men he commended specifically for their conduct during detention. He and 81 surviving crewmen spent 11 months as North Korean prisoners.

Bucher is to answer questions of a Navy court of inquiry Tuesday.

On the stand for the third time, Bucher approached tears on several occasions as he told about North Korean torture and commended the crew for outwitting their captors.

He also described the North Koreans as brutal savages who taught children to torture baby birds and trained them to kill Americans.

Bucher appeared at his own request for the final phase of the inquiry.

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Pueblo NL Bjt 440

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Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP — The captain of the USS Pueblo, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, testifying on questions he felt had not been answered in the Navy's inquiry, said Monday his North Korean captors were brutal savages who taught children to torture baby birds and trained them to kill Americans.

Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher appeared at his own request in the final phase of a court of inquiry into the capture of his intelligence ship last year and the conduct of his men during 11 months' imprisonment.

He choked up and appeared on the verge of tears as he told about hearing "yells and screams of pain" while North Koreans beat his crew.

"I saw on numerous occasions Koreans through the window of my room . . . both the men and the women in uniform and their maids . . . do such things as pulling legs off baby birds and taking baby toads and pulling them apart," Bucher said.

"It seemed to me these people are basically cruel and brutal savages. . . . I was certain we could expect to receive the same treatment as small crawling creatures out on the sidewalks tortured with lighted sticks."

Bucher fidgeted with lead pencils on the witness table as he consulted prepared notes.

His recitation of atrocities echoed statements earlier in the day from Vice Adm. John V. Smith, senior member of the U.N. negotiations team at Panmunjon when the Pueblo was captured.

Smith called the North Koreans "Mongolian savages . . . mad dogs . . . and one step above animals."

"I never saw a Korean pass one of those dogs in the compound without kicking him," Bucher said. "The North Koreans are brought up that way."

He said their children from the age of 5 are taught to hate Americans and he described North Korean movies this way:

"There is one scene in each of them in which a grandfatherly or grandmotherly type says words to the effect, 'Well, Johnny, or well, Susie, what are you doing to do when you grow up?'"

"The kid would invariably say, 'I want to kill an American.'"

Bucher said his two main concerns in prison were the treatment of his men and whether he or anyone in his crew would break down under torture and divulge secret information.

But he said interrogations led him to believe North Koreans were "not sophisticated or technically oriented enough to examine what I was most concerned with, and I became more confident . . . these secret areas would not be approached."

Bucher said he became extremely concerned about the treatment of his crewmen wounded during the capture, and added: "By listening I could hear various members of my crew being beaten and I could hear their yells and screams of pain. But I . . ."

He blinked his eyes, studied his notes, cleared his throat and his attorney changed the line of questioning.

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