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Pueblo BJT and NL 350

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP — Admirals on a Navy court fired their sharpest questions yet at the skipper of the USS Pueblo Tuesday as, their inquiry nearing an end, they focused on a crucial question: Why did Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher give up his intelligence ship without a fight?

Bucher at one point said he didn't fight when North Koreans boarded the Pueblo because his orders forbade him "from provoking an international incident."

"When," asked a court member, "did the policy of not being provocative cease being in effect?" *CEASE?

Said Bucher: "I can't think of a time when I considered that policy not in effect."

He was asked why the ship's guns were not used.

"My orders stated I would not uncover my guns until such time as the ship was in danger of survival," Bucher said. "Repelling boarders does not in my opinion come under that definition."

Said Vice Adm. Harold G. Bowen Jr., court president:

"If a situation requires repel boarders, is that a matter of survival?"

"Not necessarily, no sir," Bucher said. "... repel boarders can be directed at one man."

"If there's an organized boarding party, is that a matter of survival?"

"If a matter of loss of a ship or salvation of a ship, yes sir."

"Could you have been boarded if you chose not to be, by continuing to steam out to sea?" asked court counsel William Newsome.

"Yes," Bucher said. "They could have shot away my control mechanisms."

THE PQUEBLO WAS CAPTURED BY North Korean gunboats without resistance and its crew imprisoned 11 months.

Bucher said he didn't want to risk having control mechanisms shot away because he had information that U.S. aircraft might be on the way: "I didn't want the ship disabled because if help did arrive I wanted to be able to get out of there."

"I thought we also had a chance of overpowering the boarding party . . . I really felt strongly about my orders in connection with not provoking an international incident."

Bucher said he took sole responsibility for loss of classified information to the North Koreans, but added, "We should have been provided with better thought-out plans by the Navy for emergency destruction."

Earlier in the day, Bucher said he "never struck the Pueblo's colors, for I never felt I was surrendering per se."

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Pueblo NL Bjt 400

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - The USS Pueblo's skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, said Tuesday his crew lacked proper training on the U.S. Code of Conduct for men taken prisoners—and that he had had none at all.

Bucher, under intensive questioning from Navy lawyers in the final phase of a court of inquiry, also said he "never struck the colors for I never felt I was surrendering per se."

Rather, said Bucher, he felt he was simply overwhelmed by the odds against running from North Korean gunboats and surviving an all-out attack on the open sea.

"You are asking me for a hindsight evaluation," replied Bucher when asked if his crew was indoctrinated in the Code of Conduct.

"Considering what happened, neither my crew nor myself had proper indoctrination in the Code of Conduct."

"What training did you have?" asked court counsel William Newsome.

"I had none."

The code says prisoners shouldn't reveal anything but name, rank, serial number and date of birth.

"Did you have the duty in detention to advise your men concerning the Code of Conduct?" asked Newsome.

"I felt the advice I gave the crew when and where possible was in the spirit of the Code of Conduct but did not follow the letter of the code," Bucher replied.

The court is investigating the ship's seizure last year and the conduct of its crew during 11 months activity.

Questioned about his decision to give up the Pueblo and its men without a fight, Bucher said once the gunboats got within 700 to 800 yards they "would have simply been able to wipe out the pilot house and that would have wiped out my ability to go much further."

Bucher said he was not familiar with the quantity of classified material on board when the Pueblo was captured, adding, "I was given to understand there were compartmented areas in the Pueblo's intelligence section it was not necessary for me to know about."

He said he did not have free access to file cabinets in the office of the ship's intelligence officer, Lt. Stephen Harris.

Bucher also said:

-He was unable to obtain any explosives to destroy classified equipment and scuttle the ship—even though he tried twice.

-He did not tell his operational or administrative commander about difficulties in aiming the vessel's machine guns to repel boarders because it would have been "difficult to train the gun down far enough to be effective."

-He doesn't remember making known to the crew his decision to give up the Pueblo.

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Pueblo add

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'Rules of life' for USS Pueblo crewmen in North Korean prisons were read to the court of inquiry Tuesday. Here they are, in the North Korean phraseology:

1. The daily schedule will be strictly observed.
2. You will always display courtesy to the duty personnel when they enter ytur room to deal with you.
3. You must not talk loudly or sing in your room.
4. You must not sit or lie on the floor or bed, except on Sundays and during prescribed hours, but should sit on the chair.
5. You must war your clothes at all times except while washing your face and in bed.
6. You must take care of the room, furniture and all expendables issued to you.
7. You will keep your room and corridors clean at all time.
8. You must keep in good order while engaging in collective activities in the mess hall, etc.
9. You will entertain yourself only with the culture provided.
10. If you have something to do, ask permission from the guards, who will escort you to the appropriate.

You will be punished severely and unconditionally if you commit one of the followintw;

1. In case you make false statements or refuse questioning or hint others to do so.
2. In case you attempt to signal other rooms by this or that means.
3. In case you make unauthorized writing.
4. In case you show disrespect or disrespect to any of the duty personnel.
5. In case you make any other offense.

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