

Archives Branch
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Processor: Updated March 2011 and original collection processed January 2007.

BuPers Records of USS Pueblo Incident

1968-1969

COLL/554

Creator: Bureau of Naval Personnel

Extent: Total boxes: 11
Cubic feet: 4

Inclusive Dates: 1968-1990

Access: Open to the public.

Classification: The collection had an initial “Declassification Review” followed by a Kyl-Lott review in April 2008. Many of the records remain classified, have Privacy Act data, or have been referred to other agencies for final review.

Scope and Content Notes

Historical Note

USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2) was forcibly captured by the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea on January 23 1968. *Pueblo* was off the coast of North Korea in international waters when it was shot at and chased by Korean ships and aircraft. The Commanding Officer stopped running when he realized he could not outrun the other ships and the aircraft overhead and would end up in a blood bath with most if not all of his crew being killed.

One crew member died during the capture and 82 others were taken as prisoners. The crew was tortured and beaten, deprived of adequate food and medical care, and forced to write confession letters to their families, state representatives, and the President of the United States, asking for the U.S. Government to admit it was guilty of spying. They were told that they would be tried as spies for committing acts of espionage inside the territorial waters of Korea. They would be given leniency only if the U.S. would admit to the acts of espionage and would promise never to do it again.

The crew spent the next 11 months in captivity while the U.S. tried to get them released through diplomatic means. The crew was finally released on December 23 1968.

Upon returning home there was a Court of Inquiry held to determine the circumstances leading to the capture of the ship.

Scope and Content Note (continued)

This collection contains records collected by the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) during and after the capture of USS *Pueblo*. These records include naval messages, correspondence and

newspaper and magazine articles relating to the incident.

The collection is organized in seven series. Series I, crew captivity files are organized alphabetically by the crew member's last name. Among the items found are correspondence, letters written to family members and messages pertaining to the individual captured.

Series II, Naval Messages, are organized by date time group beginning on January 23,1968 and ending June 6,1969.

Series III consists of correspondence and is organized chronologically. The correspondence comes from Office of Naval Personnel, Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, Department of the Navy's Naval Intelligence Command, Department of State, and letters from different congressman.

Series IV are Subject Files. These files are arranged alphabetically by subject. The subjects include address lists of the crew and next of kin, how to mail Christmas packages, claims and entitlements, Court of Inquiry documents, intelligence documents, newspaper and magazine articles, next of kin notifications and pay issues.

Series V, Korean Film Coverage. This contains a description and documents pertaining to the Korean Film Coverage during the crew's internment.

Series VI, Korean Press Conference. This contains correspondence and transcripts of the press conference done by the Koreans on August 13, 1968 for propaganda purposes.

Series VII contains Photographs and correspondence relating to the photos taken by the Koreans of the crew while they were in captivity.

Series VIII consists of one media item, a tape of an interview with Mrs. Harris that took place on March 29, 1968. Note: A digital copy of this tape is saved on a CD-ROM and placed in the Operational Archives Oral History Collection.

Box Listing

Box 1

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Abelon, Rogelio Pare1 TN
Alexander, Michael William CT2
Aluague, Rizalino Lastrella TN
Anderson, Wayne Drexel CT3
Arnold, Richard Everett FA
Ayling, Charles William CT3
Bailey, Don Earl CTI
Baldrige, Herman Paul HM1

Box 2

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Bame, Richard Ivan ENFA
Bandera, Peter Milton SN
Barrett, Michael Thomas CT1
Berens, Ronald Leon BM3
Bland, Howard Edward FA
Blansett, Rushel Junior EM1
Bouden, Ralph Dalton CTC

Brusnahan, Paul David CT3
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Bio
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Classified
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Congressional Documents
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Duty Officer Report

Box 3

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Letters
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Memos and Correspondence
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Messages
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Newspaper Articles
Bucher, Lloyd Mark CDR -Pay
Bussell, Willie Columbus BM3
Canales, Armando Moreno YNI
Crandell, Charles Henry Jr. RM3
Crowe, Bradley Reed CT3
Duke, Rodney Harteman CT3

Box 4

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Ellis, Stephen Paul SN
Escarnilla, Victor Deleon IC2
Garcia, Policarpo Polla SKI
Ginther, Francis John CT1
Goldman, Monroe Onel ENC
Grant, John White CT3
Hagenson, Gerald William EM1

Box5

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Harris, Stephen Robert LT
Harris, Timothy Leon ENS
Hayes, Lee Roy RM2
Higgins, John Charles Jr. FN
Hill, Robert Walter Jr. SN
Iredale, Harry III (Civ)
Kames, Sidney Jerry CT3
Kell, James Francis CTC
Kisler, Earl Murray CT3

Box6

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Kelpac, Norbert John BMI
Lacy, Gene Howard CW03
Lamantia, Anthony Andrew CT3

Langenberg, Peter Morton CT2
Law, Charles Benton Jr. QM1
Layton, James Dewar CTI
Leach, Wendell Gene SM2
Lewis, Harry NMN CS2
Mack, Lawrence William PH1
Marshall, Larry Joe SN
Massie, William Thomas FN
McClarren, Donald Raymond CTI
McClintock, Ralph NMN CT2
Murphy, Edward Renz Jr. LT
Nolte, Clifford Clair ETR2
O'Bannon, Michael Andrew IC3

Box 7

Series I: Crew Captivity Files

Peppard, Donald Richard CTI
Phares, Earl Raymond SA
Ritter, David Lee CT1
Rosales, Ramon NMN SK3
Russell, Edward Stuart PN3
Scarborough, William Douglas EN1
Shilling, John Allen CT3
Shingleton, John Robert SN
Spear, Norman William FN
Sterling, Charles Ray CT2
Strano, Angelo Salvatore CT2
Strickland, Lawrence Edwin EM3
Tuck, Dinnie Richard Jr. (Civ)
Wadley, Kenneth Roy GMGI
Wood, Elton Allen CT2
Wright, Darrel Dean EN3

Series II: Messages

Messages	Jan-Jul 1968
Messages	Aug-Nov 1968
Messages	Dec 1968

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Messages	Jan 1969
Messages –Classified	Mar-Dec 1968

Series III: Correspondence

Correspondence	Not Dated
Correspondence	Jan-Mar 1968
Correspondence	Apr-Jul 1968
Correspondence	Aug-Dec 1968
Correspondence	Jan-Mar 1969

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Series IV: Subject Files

Address Lists of Crew and Next of Kin (Privacy Act)	
Address lists of crew and Next of Kin Cont. (Privacy Act)	
Christmas Package Mailing Information	Nov 1968-Jan 1969
Christmas Package Mailing Information (Classified)	Nov 1968
Claims and Entitlements	Mar 1968-Jul 1970
Court of Inquiry, Documents Pertaining to	Nov 1968-Mar 1969
Crew Lists	
Fleet Reserve Association Documents	Sep-Dec 1968
Intelligence Documents (Classified)	May-Jul 1968
Magazine Articles	1969
Newspaper Articles	Jan 1968-May 1969
Next of Kin Debriefing	Aug 1968
Next of Kin, Notification of	Oct 1968

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Series IV: Subject Files

Next of Kin, Transportation Costs Pertaining to	Dec 1968	
ONI Information on Letters Received from Crew (Classified)		Dec 1968
OPNAV Notices on Responses to Inquiries	Jan-Feb 1968	
Pay Issues	Jan 1968-Jul 1970	
POW, Documents Pertaining to Receipt of	Mar 1990	
Release, Documents Pertaining to	Feb 1968-Jan 1969	

Box 11

Series IV: Subject Files

Social Security Disability Claims, Documents Related to	1974	
Social Security Disability Claims, Documents Related to (Cont.)		1974

Series V: Korean Film coverage

Korean Film Coverage Description (Classified)	Jun 1968	
Korean Film Coverage, Documents Related to	Apr-Sep 1968	

Series VI: Korean Press Conference

Korean Press Conference Correspondence	May 1968-Jun 1969	
Korean Press Conference Transcripts	Aug 1968	

Series VII: Photographs

Photographs		
Photographs (Classified)		
Photographs, Correspondence Related to	Aug-Oct 1968	

Series VIII: Media

Audiotape- "Interview with Mrs. Harris"	March 29, 1968	
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