

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AT PORTSMOUTH, N.H. On March 11, Ed Guerard of New York City and Arthur Harvey of Raymond, N.H. attempted to board the Polaris sub Abraham Lincoln at its commissioning ceremonies, as a nonviolent protest against the arms race. The account of the action (which was accompanied by a supporting demonstration of approximately 70 people standing outside the shipyard gates) was carried by Foster's Daily Democrat of Dover, N.H. as follows:

"While 2,000 persons watched the commissioning ceremonies in freezing temperatures, Harvey and Guerard put their canoe [the Ahimsa] into the Piscataqua River from Pierce Island, about 200 yards across the river from the submarine. Three Coast Guard patrol boats were waiting to intercept the canoe if it came within 200 feet of the sub.

"In their first attempt, the pacifists paddled across the choppy, fast moving river and made it into restricted waters, only to be grabbed with a grappling hook on one of the patrol boats and hauled back toward the island.

"By this time, many of the 2,000 persons were more interested in the drama on the river than the commissioning speeches.

"The patrol boat freed the canoe about three-fourths of the way back to the island, and turned around to return to the vicinity of the sub. So did the canoe, following in the wake of the patrol boat. The two men paddled furiously to keep up with the patrol boat.

"Within 200 feet again of the sub, the patrol boat tried to cut off the pacifists in the canoe, but was outmaneuvered by the smaller craft.

"Harvey and Guerard dug their paddles deep into the current and shot straight for the sub. Cheers from onlookers brought many of those sitting in seats listening to the commissioning speeches to their feet, racing to the edge of the pier. Navy and Marine personnel lining the sub and ceremony area remained rigid - eyes straight ahead.

"The pacifists were now within close range to the sub, about 150 feet, when a second patrol boat cut them off. The pacifists grabbed the side of the boat and hung on, talking with the crew members. After about 30 seconds, Harvey pushed off from the boat and he and Guerard again dug in for the last try. Two of the patrol boats were outmaneuvered, and only one was left.

"The third came charging down stream into the path of the canoe, cut off the attempt about 100 feet from the sub, and the three patrol boats then forced the canoe to berth at a pier about 200 feet below the sub.

"While the pacifists were outmaneuvering the Coast Guard boats in the water, Navy personnel were overheard saying, 'Those two guys may be nuts, but they sure have got guts. They sure must want to do this awful bad to stay out in that cold water and keep trying.'

"When the bearded, ear-muffled Harvey climbed onto the pier from the boat, he said, 'Well, we sure tried. We did the best we could.' His hands were cut and red.

"The men were put into a Navy panel truck, taken to base security headquarters, then turned over to Maine State Police and finally released in time to head the New England Committee for Non-Violent Action's peace walk through Portsmouth."

Art and Ed said that their intention in approaching the pier, where they were finally apprehended, was to climb on it, run across, dive into the water and swim to the submarine. Security guards stationed on the pier thwarted this plan.