

REMEMBERING THE USS LIBERTY

ON THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1967: "...jet aircraft and motor torpedo boats of Israel brutally assaulted an American naval vessel, the USS LIBERTY, in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. The attack was preceded by more than six-hours of intense low-level surveillance by Israel photo-reconnaissance aircraft, which buzzed the intelligence ship thirteen times, sometimes flying as low as 200 feet directly overhead. The carefully orchestrated assault that followed was initiated by high-performance jet aircraft, and was followed up by slower and more maneuverable jets carrying napalm, and was finally turned over to lethal torpedo boats, which blasted a forty-foot hole in the ship's side.

"The attack lasted more two hours-killing 34 Americans and wounding 171 others – and inflicted 821 rocket and machine-gun holes in the ship. And when the LIBERTY stubbornly remained afloat despite her damage, Israeli forces machine-gunned her life rafts and sent troop-carrying helicopters to finish the job. At this point, with Sixth Fleet rescue aircraft finally enroute, the government of Israel apologized and the attacking forces suddenly withdrew. Only then did the identity of the assailants become known."

— JAMES M. ENNES, JR., USN, RET.¹

In the aftermath of the June 8, 1967 air and naval attacks, the 294-member crew of the U.S.S. *Liberty* – an intelligence-gathering technical research ship (AGTR-5)² – received the "most decorations awarded for a single ship action in U.S. history."^{3,4}

Fifty years later, there are still calls for an *honest* and *complete* Congressional investigation that will include the eyewitness accounts of survivors and reflect all the facts. Simply put, the attack on the *Liberty* involves far more than the attempt of an "ally" to sink a lightly-armed⁵ U.S. Navy ship and kill the crew. Because at that time, Israel's "Six-Day War" – also called the Third Arab-Israeli War⁶ – was well underway against neighboring Egypt, Syria, and Jordan.⁷

Many questions remain unanswered. Secrets are



hidden in undisclosed documents and in heavily redacted FOIA-released materials. And, as two surviving officers of the attack on the *Liberty* have critically pointed out (all emphasis added):

"Never before in the history of the United States Navy has a Navy Board of Inquiry ignored the testimony of American military eyewitnesses and taken, on faith, the word of their attackers."

— DR. RICHARD KIEFFER, CAPTAIN, MEDICAL CORPS⁸

"Except for a few high ranking naval officers, no one has felt our pain of not knowing exactly why the ship was attacked. Over thirty-one (31) years after the attack, the crew is entitled to know the details concerning the attack by the Government of Israel and also the details of the role the US Government in the entire affair. Why were our aircraft recalled to their carriers on two (2) occasions before they reached our location to assess the situation, and what official ordered the recall after 'Hot Line' communication was established with Moscow to alert Nasser that the planes were being sent to see what the condition of USS LIBERTY was? None of the planes ever reached our location. **For over seventeen (17) hours we received no assistance from US forces in the Mediterranean.**

"This is the only US Navy ship attacked by a foreign nation, involving a large loss of life and so many personnel injured that has never been accorded a full Congressional hearing."

— WILLIAM L. MCGONAGLE, CAPTAIN, USN, RET.⁹

The 50-year institutional negligence of the U.S. Congress to conduct an *honest* and *thorough* investigation does not have to be a reason for the assault on the U.S.S. *Liberty* to remain hidden from public view. On the contrary: anyone adverse to being kept in the dark can hear the revealing eyewitness accounts of survivors:

JAMES M. ENNES, JR. | HISTORY COUNTS, 2/1/12
https://wn.com/israel's_assault_on_the_u.s.s._liberty_with_james_ennis

PHILLIP "PHIL" TOURNEY SPEECH, 10/13/07
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCDjoc7FBbk>

DONALD "DON" W. PAGELER PRESENTATION, 2013
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUU08xnVaGm>

ERNEST "ERNE" A. GALLO SPEECH, 3/7/14
http://natsummit.org/transcripts/ernie_gallo.htm

On the following 29 pages you will find more about the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty and crew, as well as a list of resources with links to documents, maps, web-sites, interviews, speeches, presentations, statements, documentaries, and articles.

Endnotes [Information accessed February 2017]

- 1 From the book jacket of James M. Ennes, Jr.'s *Assault on the Liberty* (Random House, NY, 1979, ISBN 0-394-50512-3). Quote posted at <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/60/6005.htm>
- 2 USS Liberty (AGTR-5), NavSource Online: Service Ship Photo Archive <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/60/6005.htm>
- 3 Inscribed on a USS Liberty memorial, Rochester, NY; Erected by Thomas F. Healy, Post 16, VFW of the U.S.; Dedicated 6/8/10. Waymarking website http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WME8Q6_USS_Liberty_memorial_Rochester_NY
- 4 U.S.S. *Liberty* crew's Awards and Citations: 1 Congressional Medal of Honor, 2 Navy Crosses, 12 Silver Stars, 20 Bronze Stars, 9 Navy Commendation Medals, 208 Purple Heart Medals, and 294 Combat Action Ribbons. USS Liberty website. <http://www.usliberty.org/roster.htm>
- 5 The U.S.S. *Liberty*: "was armed with only four 50-caliber machine guns with an effective range of less than two miles. It was cruising at about 5 knots." Source: Ken Ringle, "In 1967, Israeli Forces Bombarded a U.S. Intelligence Ship, Killing 34 Americans and Leaving a Legacy of Suspicion," *Washington Post*, 2/1/03, p.C01. Posted at: http://www.fpp.co.uk/History/General/USS_Liberty/WashPost010203.html
- 6 Israel's Six-Day War "took place June 5–10, 1967, and was the third of the Arab-Israeli wars. Israel's decisive victory included the capture of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights; the status of these territories subsequently became a major point of contention in the Arab-Israeli conflict." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War>
- 7 Third Arab-Israeli War, 1967, History of the Middle East Database, Ted Thornton http://www.nmhtthornton.com/mehistorydatabase/1967_third_arab.php
- 8 Quote on a plaque dedicated to the service members who died from the June 8, 1967 Israeli attack on the U.S.S. *Liberty*. Plaque dedication: October 10, 2014, Manistee, Michigan. <http://www.salem-news.com/articles/october242014/ussliberty-plaque.php>
- 9 "Open Letter to President Clinton," William L. McGonagle, Captain, USN, ret., 10/24/98. <http://www.usliberty.org/mcg2prez.pdf>



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. LIBERTY

“... [I]n one of the worst peacetime naval disasters in American history, Israeli air and naval forces attacked the U.S. Navy intelligence ship Liberty on the high seas.

“Even before the story appeared in the American press, U.S. Government public affairs officers went to work promoting a version of the story that was satisfactory to Israel, while representatives of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee [AIPAC] descended on the press and Congress to help keep the story under control. Almost immediately, Jacob Javits in the Senate and Roman Pucinski in the House of Representatives took to the floor of Congress to lament the ‘tragic mistake’ that had directed ‘friendly fire’ toward an American ship.

“The campaign was so effective that most American newspapers and all commercial television networks dropped the story almost overnight before most of the facts were known. No American newsman probed for the inside story of the USS Liberty affair. No member of Congress called publicly for the facts. No crewmen were interviewed on the evening news. Even today, few people anywhere have ever heard of the USS Liberty.”

— JAMES M. ENNES, JR. (USN, RET.),
“THE USS LIBERTY AFFAIR,” *THE LINK*, MAY/JUNE 1984

<http://www.amcu.org/getattachment/432497c1-4440-42b5-99c2-f6f0b0b5b3b7/The-USS-Liberty-Affair.aspx>



TORPEDO HOLE FROM DRYDOCK FLOOR, USS LIBERTY IN MALTA AFTER THE ATTACK.

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DAMAGE TO USS LIBERTY, JUNE 1967. PHOTO # NH 97478, U.S. NAVY, NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER. <https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/OnlineLibrary/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-l/agtr5-43.htm>

Links/urls were active when this document was produced. If they become broken in the future, try doing an internet search for the title.



The U.S.S. Liberty receives assistance from a Sixth Fleet helicopter after being attacked and damaged by Israeli forces off the Sinai Peninsula on June 8, 1967.



34 MEN KILLED IN ACTION • JUNE 8, 1967

SONS, BROTHERS, HUSBANDS, FATHERS, UNCLES, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, AND FELLOW AMERICANS

3 SHIP OFFICERS:



**Philip McCutcheon
Armstrong, Jr.**
Lieutenant Commander, USN
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 4 July 1929,
Detroit, MI



**Melvin Douglas
Smith**
Communications Technician Chief
Alamance Memorial Park, Burlington, NC
Born: 27 Feb. 1938, Alamance, NC



**Robert Burton
Eisenberg**
Communications Technician
Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery,
Saint Paul, MN
Born: 12 Oct. 1944, St. Paul, MN



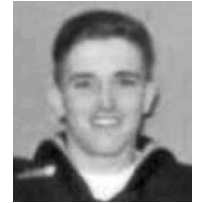
**Richard Walter
Keene**
Communications Technician
Woodlawn National Cemetery,
Elmira, NY
Born: 23 Oct. 1945, Batavia, NY



**John Clarence
Spicher**
Corpsman
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 15 Feb. 1937,
Tererunt, PA



**Gary Ray
Blanchard**
Seaman
Lakeview Cemetery &
Mausoleum, Wichita, KN
Born: 16 Sept. 1946, Wichita, KN



**Carl Christian
Nygren**
Communications Technician Seaman
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 17 May 1945,
Williamsport, PA

19 PETTY OFFICERS:



**James Cecil
Pierce**
Lieutenant, USN
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 11 July 1924, Clinton, NC



**William Bernard
Allenbaugh**
Communications Technician
Parkwood Cemetery, Baltimore, MD
Born: 23 Jan. 1944, Baltimore, MD



Jerry Lee Goss
Communications Technician
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 30 May 1941,
North Vernon, IN



**James Mahlon
Lupton**
Communications Technician
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 20 Oct. 1942, Shreveport, LA



**Alexander Neil
Thompson**
Gunner's Mate Gun
Born: 5 Apr. 1943,
Philadelphia, PA



**Lawrence Paul
Hayden**
Communications Technician Seaman
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 16 June 1947, Houston, TX



David Skolak
Interior Communications Fireman
Calvary Cemetery, Portage, IN
Born: 12 Aug. 1946, Gary, IN



**Stephen
Spencer Toth**
Lieutenant, USN
Annapolis National Cemetery, MD
Born: 12 Sept. 1939,
San Diego, CA



Francis Brown
Quartermaster
Saint Mary's Cemetery, Troy, NY
Born: 6 May 1947,
Albany, NY



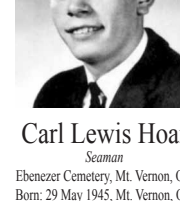
Curtis Alan Graves
Communications Technician
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 10 Feb. 1943,
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI



**Duane Rowe
Marggraf**
Communications Technician
Estabrooks Cemetery, Fond du Lac, WI
Born: 27 Jan. 1945, Fond du Lac, WI



**Thomas Ray
Thornton**
Communications Technician
Ferncliff Cemetery, Springfield, OH
Born: 1 Feb. 1944, Springfield, OH



Carl Lewis Hoar
Seaman
Ebenezer Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, OH
Born: 29 May 1945, Mt. Vernon, OH

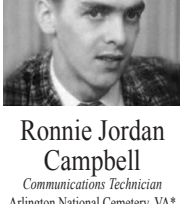


Jack Lewis Raper
Sergeant, USMC
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 28 Aug. 1944, Cedartown, GA

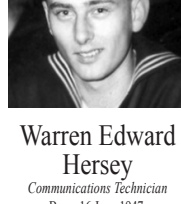
2 CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS:



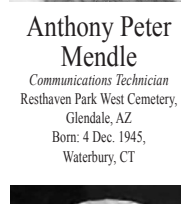
**Raymond
Eugene Linn**
Communications Technician Chief
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 30 June 1928,
Adamsville, OH



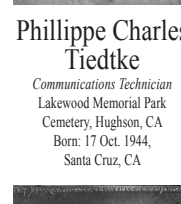
**Ronnie Jordan
Campbell**
Communications Technician
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 4 Nov. 1942, Sevierville, TN



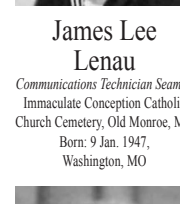
**Warren Edward
Hersey**
Communications Technician
Born: 16 June 1947,
Houston, TX



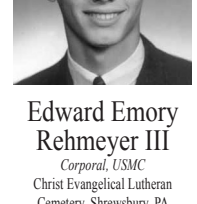
**Anthony Peter
Mendle**
Communications Technician
Resthaven Park West Cemetery,
Glendale, AZ
Born: 4 Dec. 1945,
Waterbury, CT



**Phillippe Charles
Tiedtke**
Communications Technician
Lakewood Memorial Park
Cemetery, Hughson, CA
Born: 9 Jan. 1947,
Santa Cruz, CA



**James Lee
Lenau**
Communications Technician Seaman
Immaculate Conception Catholic
Church Cemetery, Old Monroe, MO
Born: 9 Jan. 1947,
Washington, MO



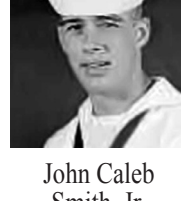
**Edward Emory
Rehmyer III**
Corporal, USMC
Christ Evangelical Lutheran
Cemetery, Shrewsbury, PA
Born: 25 Sept. 1945, York, PA



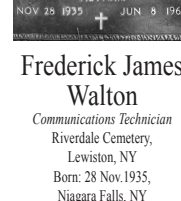
Jerry L. Converse
Communications Technician
Oak Hill Cemetery, Cherokee, IA
Born: 11 June 1943, Puyallup, WA



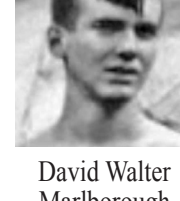
Alan Higgins
Communications Technician
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 27 Jan. 1948, Weymouth, MA



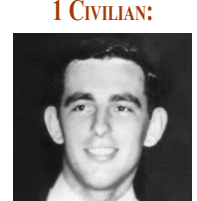
**John Caleb
Smith, Jr.**
Communications Technician
Calvary Cemetery, Ithaca, NY
Born: 13 July 1943,
Ithaca, NY



**Frederick James
Walton**
Communications Technician
Riverdale Cemetery,
Lewiston, NY
Born: 28 Nov. 1935,
Niagara Falls, NY



**David Walter
Marlborough**
Communications Technician Seaman
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 28 Sept. 1948,
Waterville, ME



Allen Merle Blue
Communications Technician
Arlington National Cemetery, VA*
Born: 5 Sept. 1943, Yakima, WA

For more, see info compiled by Jim Ennes and Joe Meadors <http://www.ussliberty.org/roster.htm> or http://ifamericaknew.org/us_ints/liberty-casualties.html

Source for birth dates: *Assembly Journal*, State of Wisconsin, Ninety-Sixth Regular Session, April 6, 2004. See the "Motion" that states: "March 11, Representative Marlin Schneider asked unanimous consent that the names, dates of birth and the hometowns of the personnel killed on the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967, be recorded in the Assembly Journal..." <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2003/related/journals/assembly/20040406/1267up=1>

*Source for burial at Arlington National Cemetery: "Casualties of the USS Liberty," Arlington National Cemetery <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Notable-Graves/Casualties-of-War-and-Honorary-War-Veterans/USS-Liberty>



THE CREW

Reference: USS Liberty Personnel Roster,
USS Liberty website
<http://www.ussliberty.org/roster.htm>

+ Killed In Action (KIA)

* Wounded In Action (WIA)

O = Plank Owner

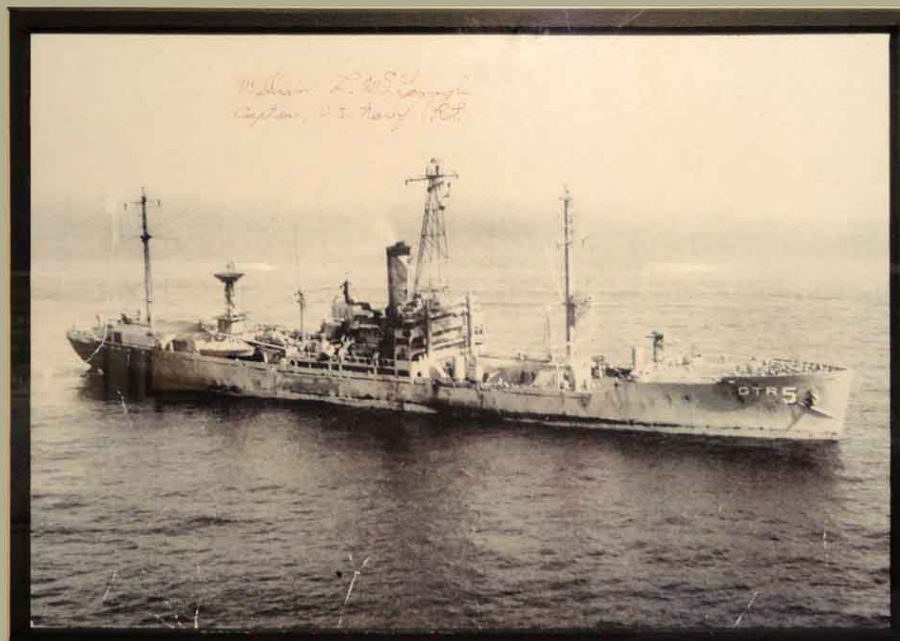
Ship Officers (16) | KIA: 3

United States Navy (USN):

- + LCDR *Armstrong, Jr., Philip McCutcheon*
- * LT Bennett, Maurice Hogue
- * LT Golden, George Houston
- * LCDR Lewis, David Edwin
- * CDR McGonagle, William Loren
- + LT *Pierce, James Cecil*
- + LT *Toth, Stephen Spencer*

United States Naval Reserve (USNR):

- * LT Ennes, Jr., James Marquis
- * LT Kieffer, Richard Francis
- * ENS Lucas, David George
- * LT O'Connor, James George
- ENS O'Malley, Malcom Patrick
- * LTJG Painter, Lloyd Clyde
- ENS Scott, John Deaderick
- * ENS Taylor, Jr., Richard Patten
- * LTJG Watson, Malcolm McEachin



USS Liberty after the attack
Signed by
Captain William L. McGonagle USN RET

Chief Petty Officers (9) | KIA: 2

- CPO Benkert, Joseph Allen
- * CPO Brooks, Richard J.
- * CPO Lamkin, Carlyle F.
- + CPO *Linn, Raymond Eugene*
- * CPO Matthews, James A.
- + CPO *Smith, Melvin Douglas*
- CPO Smith, Wayne L.
- * CPO Thompson, Harold J.
- SCPO White, Stanley Wayne

The Men (263) | KIA: 26

- * CT1 Addington, Reginald N.
- CTSN Aftoora, Gary L.
- * SFP3 Aimetti, Americo
- FN Aishe, Benjamin G.
- + CT3 *Allenbaugh, William Bernard*
- * CT2 Ameen, Timothy Paul
- CT3 Anderson Jr., James M.
- * CT3 Anderson, Joe D.
- * EMFA Anderson, Richard Emory
- CT2 Armstrong, Alvis L.
- QMSN Arfsten, Theodore L.
- * EMFN Ashworth, Joseph W.
- SD3 Bagan, Rogelio M. O
- CTSN Bacskay, Thomas G.
- * CT1 Baker, Richard K.
- CS3 Barton, Gary L. O
- FN Beattie, John W.
- * CTSN Bechtel, Edward H.
- * CTSN Benedict, Jr., Nathan D.

- * CTSN Bennett, Lee R.
- * CT2 Bingham, Lowell Thomas
- * FN Bisher, Gerald R.
- + SN *Blanchard, Gary Ray*
- * CT2 Bloxham, Glenn Lee
- * CT3 Boccella, Salvatore
- * MM3 Booth, John E.
- * FN Bostic II, Calvin
- * FN Botcher, Don R.
- * CT2 Bowen, Larry L.
- CT2 Bradley, Thomas E.
- * CT3 Brong, James Victor
- + QM3 *Brown, Francis* O
- * BT3 Brown, Frank J. O
- * YN3 Brownfield, Virgil Louie
- * BT3 Brummett,
- * CT3 Buck, Ronald D.
- RMSN Bundy, David W.
- CT1 Byrd, Charles E.
- * MMFA Byrd, Danny R.
- CT2 Calligan, John J.
- + CT2 *Campbell, Ronnie Jordon*
- * CT1 Carlson, Richard Carl
- * CT3 Carnahan, David N.
- * CT1 Carpenter, Jeffery R.
- * CT2 Carpenter, Joseph P.
- * SN Casper, William E.
- * CT2 Chadsey, Calvin L.
- * CT2 Cleveland, Fred M.
- RD2 Cocnavitch, Charles J.

- * SN Colston, Jr., "J" "C"
- * SN Concepcion, Rodney C.
- + CT2 *Converse, Jerry L.*
- * SN Cook, Eddie Lamar
- * ENFA Cornish, George R.
- SH3 Cotten, James E.
- DK3 Craig, Juan A.
- * CTSN Dally, Rodney Lee
- * CTSN Daniels, Dale E.
- * SM2 David, Jr., Russell O'Neal
- * CT2 Davidson, James Ray
- SFM3 Demori, Duilio
- TN Diana, Rodolfo A.
- * ICFN DiGeronimo, James P.
- * CT2 Dodd, Marvin (Edward?) F.
- CTSN Duea, Edward J.
- * SH3 Durzewski, Jr., Henry Edward
- * MM3 Dye, Robert M. O
- * CTSN Eakins, Kenneth B.
- SN Easton, Alan W.
- * CTSN Ecker, Kenneth P.
- * CT1 Eckhart, Lewis D.
- * CT2 Eikleberry, Dennis M.
- + CT2 *Eisenberg, Robert Burton*
- SD1 Elder, Eddie G.
- MM3 Fisher, John W.
- * SN Follin, Jr., Donald F.
- RM3 Freese, Everett L.
- CT2 Gallo, Ernest A.
- * CT3 Gauthier, Kenneth R.

- * RD3 Gilson, Ronald D. O
- CT3 Goins, Larry D.
- + CT3 *Goss, Jerry Lee*
- * CTSN Grantski, Ronald F.
- + CT1 *Graves, Curtis Alan*
- SD3 Green, Troy
- * YN3 Gurchik, Steven Charles O
- * ET3 Halbardier, James T.
- RM2 Halman, James V.
- SN Handy, Edward D.
- MM3 Hauck, Charles K.
- + CTSN *Hayden, Lawrence Paul*
- * CT3 Hawkins, David W.
- * GMG3 Hazen, David C.
- * SN Heaney, Warren D.
- * CT2 Hendricks, Charles R.
- * SH2 Herold, Donald
- + CT1 *Hersey, Warren Edward*
- + CT3 *Higgins, Alan*
- CT3 Hildebrand, Jr., Wayne L.
- + SN *Hoar, Carl Lewis*
- MM3 Hobson, Jerry G
- SN Holden, Glen J.
- * CT3 Horne, Jr., John S.
- * YN3 Hrankowski, John M.
- CTSN Hurst, Ronald A.
- * SN Jackson, Thomas F.
- * CT2 Johns, Fredrick K.
- FN Johnson, Duane D.

Continued next page



THE CREW (continued)

* CT3 Johnson, Melvin P.
CTSA Johnson, Perry W.
CT3 Jones, Charles F.
* CTSN Kavanagh, James P.
+ CT2 Keene, Richard Walter
* FA Kelly, Glenn D.
* BT3 Kelly, James F.
SN Kerner, Frederick W.
BT3 Kidd, Robert Clyde
SH1 Kimble, Kenneth R.
* CTSN Kirk, Eugene H.
* SA Kisiel, David J.
CT3 Kram, William Mark
* FN Krasnansky, Stephen John
* CT3 Kreun, Loren W.
* SN Kriner, Alan F.
* CT1 Kukal, Ronald G.
* CT2 Landis, Calvin L.
SA Larkins, Dale Duane
* FA La Torre, Steven J.
* SN La Mar, John D.
* EM2 LeMay, William M.
* SN Lehman, Joel W.
* CTSN Lehman, Terry W.
* SN Lemond, Thomas W.
+ CTSN Lenau, James Lee
* CT1 Lentini, Joseph C.
SK3 Lewis, Jr., Claude L.
* CT2 Liefeld, Anthony J.
CTSN Lipply, Ronald L.
TN Lomasang, Benjamin L.
* CT2 Long, Philip Lyle
CTSN Long, Robert W.
* FN Lasasso, Gerald F.
PNSN Lucas, Randy W.
* CT3 Lundin, Donald J.
+ CT1 Lupton, James Mahlon
* FN Maraio, James A.
* TN Marfil, Sofronio P. O
+ CT3 Marggraf, Duane Rowe
+ CTSN Marlborough, David
MM1 Martin, Charles Monroe
* CT2 Massengale, John L.
* SN Mathews, Jimmie L.
* SN McAllister, Robert L.
CTSN McAndrews, Patrick H.
CT3 McClister, Edward H.
* CT3 McFarland, Terry L.
* CT2 McFeggen, David L.
* CTSN McInturff III, Frank
* SMSN Meadors, Joseph L.
CT3 McMakin, Garvin Lee
+ CT2 Mendle, Anthony Peter
TN Mercado, Remegio N.
SK1 Merritt, James H.
* CT2 Meyer, Stephen E.
* FN Miller, David B.
SH3 Moulin, Thomas Robert
FN Mumford, Richard G.
* CT3 Myers, David V.

CT3 Needham, James L.
* SF1 Dale Neese, Richard
* BT3 Newell, John P.
SK1 Newton, Richard L.
+ CTSN Nygren, Carl Christian
ET2 O'Classen, Francis Joseph O
ET3 Oliphant, Glenn R.
* BT2 Owens, Eugene
* CT2 Page, David W.
* CT2 Pageler, Donald W.
* SN Pahides, Stamatie
* CTSN Parker, Herbert J.
* CS3 Patten, Dennis A.
* SN Payan, Salvador
* CT2 Payne, Garland W.
* CTSN Peetoom, Herbert C.
* SK3 Perkins, Edward G. O
* SN Pierson, Gerald H.
CT3 Plasterer, David T.
* CT1 Pleasants, Carl L.
* QM3 Pollard, Floyd H.
* CT2 Popielski, John G.
YN2 Powledge, Martin Denny
CT2 Prigmore, Eugene
* SN Purcell, Harvey L.
SN Quintero, Anthony A.
* SN Quintero, Thomas A.
FN Ramey, David
* BT3 Rammelsburg, Albert E.
* IC1 Randall, Jr., John R. Richard
EM3 Reger, Richard J.
* SA Reilly, Robert B.
* SA Reilly, Thomas J.
CT3 Rhodes, Paddy "E"
* SN Richard, Stephen J.
* CT2 Ritenburg, Douglas C.
* SN Rossi, Jr., Victor J.
* CT1 Rowley, Charles L.
ETSN Russell, William R.
TN Sarno, Reynald S.
* CTSN Scarborough, Robert A.
* EN3 Schaley, Kenneth
* FN Schneider, Ronald W.
* CT2 Schnell, Robert J.
* HM3 Schulman, Samuel Leonard
* CT3 Shafer, Maurice B.
* CTSN Shaw, David Alan
* FN Simpson, Michael R.
* CT3 Six, Harold E.
+ ICFN Skolak, David
* SN Slavens, Larry J.
* DC3 Smith, James Clayton
* CTSN Smith, Jerry D.
+ CT1 Smith, Jr., John Caleb
* SH3 Smith, Thomas B.
* CT2 Snader, Dennis C.
* SN Soper, Larry Lewis
+ PC2 Spicher, John Clarence O
* BT3 Stoudt, Joseph D.
RM2 Sturman, Richard S.
CT2 Sutter, John R.

* CT2 Sweet, Ralph Brent
* CT3 Thome, Charles J.
+ GMG3 Thompson, Alexander Neil
* MR3 Thorn, Larry B.
+ CT3 Thornton, Thomas Ray
+ CT3 Tiedtke, Phillippe Charles
* ET3 Timmerman, Barry R.
CTSN Tobin, Michael J.
* SFP3 Tourney, Phillip Francis
SN Tracy, Stephen B.
CT3 Trader, Ronald E.
* FN Triplett, Jeffery L.
* CT3 Uber, Sammy M.
* SK2 Valdez, Jr., Donaciano
* HM1 VanCleave, Thomas Lee
CT3 Vanderpool, George R.
* ETSN Vanderschuur, Thomas E.
* CTSN Vandeventer, Robert B.
* SN Vickers, Carl J.
CTSN Wainwright, Richard W.
+ CT1 James Walton, Frederick
* CTSN Waltz, Robert M.
BM3 Ward, Jerry W.
* RM2 Ward, Joseph P.
CT2 Warwas, Daniel J.
TN Watan, Pedro P.
CT3 Way, Clyde W.
* SN Weaver, Richard L.
* CS2 Wedig, Gordon J.
* CT2 Welch, Gregory L.
SN Wheeler, Tommy W.
* SN Wilson, Jr., George W.
* CTSN Wood, Daniel B.
* CTSN Zager, Robert R.

Marines (3) | KIA: 2

* SSgt Lockwood, Bryce Franklin
+ Sgt Raper, Jack Lewis
+ Cpl Rehmyer, Edward Emory

Civilians (3) | KIA: 1

* Blalock, Donald Leslie
+ CT1 Blue, Allen Merle
Wilson, Robert L.

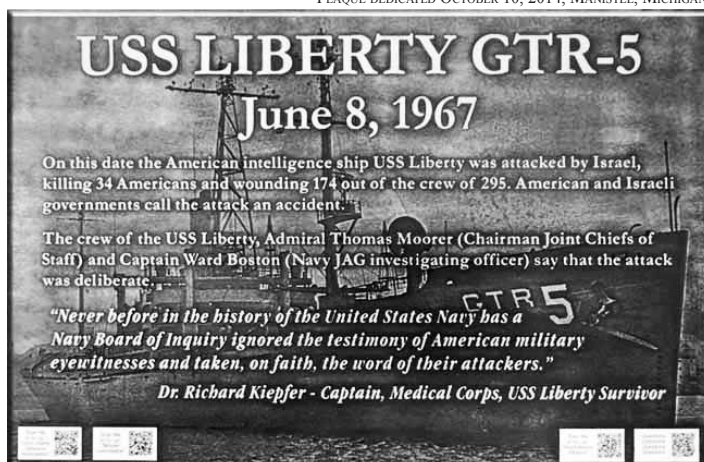
ACRONYMS

U.S. NAVY

ENS Ensign
LTJG Lieutenant Junior Grade
LT Lieutenant
LCDR Lieutenant Commander
CDR Commander
CAPT Captain
SR Seaman Recruit
SA Seaman Apprentice
SN Seaman
PO3 Petty Officer Third Class
PO2 Petty Officer Second Class
PO1 Petty Officer First Class
CPO Chief Petty Officer
SCPO Senior Chief Petty Officer
BM Boatswain's Mate
BT Boiler Technician
CS Commissaryman (1948-1974)
CT Communication Technician (1948-1976)
CTI Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive)
CTM Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance)
DC Damage Controlman
EM Electrician Mate
ET Electronics Technician
FA Fireman Apprentice
FN Fireman
GM Gunner's Mate
HM Hospital Corpsman
IC Interior Communications
MM Machinist's Mate
MR Machinery Repairman
PC Postal Clerk
RD Radarman
RM Radioman
SD Steward
SF Shipfitter (1901-1948) (to ME, FP) (1958-7)
SH Ship's Serviceman
SK Storekeeper
SM Signalman
QM Quartermaster
TN Steward (Note: "Steward (TR, TA & TN) leading to the rating Steward (SD) discontinued in 1975")
YN Yeoman
U.S.M.C.
Cpl Corporal
Sgt Sergeant
SSgt Staff Sergeant

Reference: Navy Ratings, BLUEJACKET.COM
https://bluejacket.com/usn_ratings.html
<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/nec/>
http://NECOSVoili/Documents/Chap-3_Jan17.pdf

PLAQUE DEDICATED OCTOBER 10, 2014, MANISTEE, MICHIGAN.





AWARDS AND CITATIONS

“AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY INCIDENT”

SUMMARY

- 1 Medal of Honor
- 2 Navy Cross
- 12 Silver Stars
- 20 Bronze Stars
- 9 Navy Commendation Medals
- 208 Purple Heart Medals
- 294 Combat Action Ribbons



WILLIAM L. MCGONAGLE, COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY

“... Purportedly, in order to avoid further embarrassing the government of Israel, William McGonagle’s Medal of Honor was quietly presented in a simple ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, as was a posthumous award of the Navy Cross to the ship’s Executive Officer and a member of the crew. This may be the only Medal of Honor ever awarded to an American serviceman for heroism in action against a nation that was not at war with the United States.”

— MilitaryTimes’ Hall of Valor

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=3339>

References:

USS Liberty Document Center
<http://www.usslibertydocumentcenter.org/medals>

MilitaryTimes’ Hall of Valor
<http://valor.militarytimes.com>

USS Liberty Personnel Roster
<http://www.ussliberty.org/roster.htm>

Home of Heroes
http://homeofheroes.com/valor/02_awards/silverstar/6_PostRVN/01_liberty.html

MEDAL OF HONOR

WIA McGonagle, William Loren *Commander, USN (U.S. Navy)*
William L. McGonagle “was presented the Medal of Honor, by the Secretary of the Navy, at the Navy Yard on June 11, 1968.” <http://www.ussliberty.org/mcg2prez.pdf>

NAVY CROSS

KIA Armstrong, Philip McCutcheon, Jr. *Lt. Commander, USN*
KIA Brown, Francis *Quartermaster, USN*

SILVER STAR

WIA Bennett, Maurice H. *Lieutenant, USN*
WIA Brooks, Richard J. *Chief Petty Officer, USN*
WIA Golden, George Houston *Chief Petty Officer, USN*
WIA Halbardier, James T. *Electronics Technician, ET3, USN*
“Terry Halbardier’s Silver Star resulted from a late review of his heroic actions, and his Silver Star was approved and presented in 2009, more than forty years after the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty.” <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19490>
WIA Kieffer, Richard F. *Chief Petty Officer, USN*
Larkins, Dale D. *Seaman Apprentice, USN*
WIA Lockwood, Bryce F. *Staff Sergeant, USMC (U.S. Marine Corps)*
WIA Lucas, David George *Ensign, USN*
Scott, John Deaderick *Ensign, USN*
KIA Skolak, David *Interior Communications Fireman, USN*
KIA Thompson, Alexander Neil, Jr. *Gunner’s Mate, USN*
KIA Toth, Stephen Spencer *Lieutenant, USN*

BRONZE STAR

WIA Lamkin, Carlyle F. *Chief Petty Officer, CPO*
WIA Thompson, Harold J. *Communications Technician, CPO*
WIA Carpenter, Jeffery R. *Communications Technician, CT1*
WIA Colston, Jr., “J” “C” *Seaman, SN*
WIA Dally, Rodney Lee *Communications Technician, Seaman*
WIA David, Jr., Russell O’Neal *Signalman, SM2*
Demori, Duilio *Shipfitter Metalsmith, SFM3*
WIA Durzewski, Jr., Henry Edward *Ship’s Serviceman, SH3*
Green, Troy Lawrence *Steward, SD3*
WIA Gurchik, Steven Charles *Yoeman, YN3*
WIA Herold, Donald *Ship’s Serviceman, SH2*
Hurst, Ronald A. *Communications Technician, Seaman*
WIA McInturff III, Frank *Communications Technician, Seaman*
McMakin, Garvin Lee Douglas *Communications Technician, CT3*
WIA Neese, Richard Dale *Shipfitter, SF1*
WIA Pahides, Stamatie *Seaman, SN*
Powledge, Martin Denny *Yoeman, YN2*
WIA Smith, James Clayton *Damage Controlman, DC3*
WIA Tournay, Phillip Francis *Shipfitter, SFP3*

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDALS

Benkert, Joseph Allen *Chief Petty Officer, CPO*
Martin, Charles Monroe *Machinist Mate, MMI*
Moulin, Thomas Robert *Ship’s Serviceman, SH3*
Needham, James L. *Communications Technician, CT3*
Rhodes, Paddy “E” *Communications Technician, CT3*
WIA Schnell, Robert J. *Communications Technician, CT2*
WIA Schulman, Samuel Leonard *Hospital Corpsman, HM3*
WIA Shafer, Maurice B. *Communications Technician, CT3*
WIA VanCleave, Thomas Lee *Hospital Corpsman, HMI*



AWARDS AND CITATIONS

“AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY INCIDENT”

WILLIAM LOREN MCGONAGLE

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

MEDAL OF HONOR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Captain William Loren McGonagle (NSN: 494467), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. LIBERTY in the Mediterranean Sea on 8 and 9 June 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship. Despite continuous exposure to fire, he maneuvered his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. Captain McGonagle's extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBERTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic efforts to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station and continued to command his ship for more than 17 hours. It was only after rendezvous with a U.S. destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated. Captain McGonagle's superb professionalism, courageous fighting spirit, and valiant leadership saved his ship and many lives. His actions sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Action Date: June 8 & 9, 1967

Service: Navy

Rank: Captain

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (ATGR-5)

Date of birth: November 19, 1925

Date of death: March 03, 1999

Burial location: Arlington, Virginia

Place of Birth: Kansas, Wichita

Home of record: Thermal California

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=3339>

PHILIP MCCUTCHEON ARMSTRONG, JR.

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

NAVY CROSS

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Commander Philip McCutcheon Armstrong, Jr. (NSN: 0-569825/1100), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in connection with an armed attack on the U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, the U.S.S. LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. Subjected to intense incendiary, machine-gun, and rocket fire, and placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side, the U.S.S. LIBERTY sustained numerous personnel casualties and severe structural damage. Serving as Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Armstrong was on the bridge when the first strafing attack occurred. A large fire erupted in the vicinity of two 55-gallon gasoline drums, creating the grave danger that the drums might explode and cause a widespread conflagration. Lieutenant Commander Armstrong fearlessly exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine-gun fire while proceeding to jettison the gasoline drums and organizing a party of men to extinguish the blazing lifeboats nearby. At this time, he received multiple injuries which proved to be fatal a few hours after the attack terminated. By his aggressiveness, composure under fire, and inspiring leadership, Lieutenant Commander Armstrong upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Authority: Navy Department
Board of Decorations and Medals

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Executive Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (ATGR-5)

Date of birth: 4-Jul-29

Date of death: June 8, 1967

Place of Birth: Michigan, Detroit

Home of record: Detroit Michigan

Status: KIA

Philip Armstrong graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1953.

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=4042>



FRANCIS BROWN

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

NAVY CROSS

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Quartermaster Third Class Francis Brown (NSN: 7787670), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in connection with an armed attack on the U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, the U.S.S. LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. Subjected to intense incendiary, machine-gun, and rocket fire, and placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side, the U.S.S. LIBERTY sustained numerous personnel casualties and severe structural damage. Serving as Quartermaster, Petty Officer Brown was on the bridge during the initial phase of the air attack. When the helmsman became incapacitated, Petty Officer Brown fearlessly exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine-gun fire while assuming the helmsman's duties. He steadfastly maintained the ordered course while many men in the immediate proximity received serious and fatal injuries, remaining on his post until felled by strafing fire from the torpedo boats at the moment the torpedo struck the ship. By his aggressiveness, composure under fire, and courageous actions, Petty Officer Brown upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Authority: Navy Department
Board of Decorations and Medals

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Quartermaster Third Class

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (ATGR-5)

Date of birth: 6-May-47

Date of death: June 8, 1967

Place of Birth: New York, Albany

Home of record: Troy New York

Status: KIA

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=4447>





AWARDS AND CITATIONS

“AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY INCIDENT”

JAMES TERRY HALBARDIER

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Electronics Technician Third Class James Terry Halbardier, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving on board the U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5), on 8 June 1967. The U.S.S. LIBERTY was attacked by Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea on the fourth day of the SIX DAY WAR. Petty Officer Halbardier, without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, fearlessly and repeatedly exposed himself to overwhelming rocket and machinegun fire to repair a damaged antenna in an open deck area during heavy aerial attacks. Aware that all of the ship's transmitting antennas had been destroyed and that communication with higher authority depended upon antenna repair, Petty Officer Halbardier risked his life to run connecting coaxial cable across open decks from the antenna to the main transmitter room. His efforts allowed the ship to establish communications with distant elements of the SIXTH Fleet and call for assistance. Despite being wounded, Petty Officer Halbardier ignored his injuries until the antenna had been repaired and the call for help had been received and acknowledged. His courageous actions were critical in alerting distant Navy commanders to the ship's need for assistance and were instrumental in saving the ship and hundreds of lives. Petty Officer Halbardier's outstanding display of decisive leadership, unrelenting perseverance, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Electronics Technician Third Class

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19490>

“Terry Halbardier's Silver Star resulted from a late review of his heroic actions, and his Silver Star was approved and presented in 2009, more than forty years after the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty.”

—Military Times' Hall of Valor

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19490>

JOHN DEADERICK SCOTT

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Ensign John Deaderick Scott (NSN: 0-700158/1105), United States Naval Reserve, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Ensign Scott, serving as Damage Control Assistant, was in Damage Control Central during the attack, coordinating the setting of material conditions, actions of fire parties and other damage control teams. He remained in Damage Control Central on the starboard side of the ship when notified to “Standby for torpedo attack starboard side.” Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety immediately following the torpedo attack, he courageously remained in his fume and smoke filled General Quarters station to direct and coordinate the emergency measures taken by the repair parties to extinguish fires, minimize and control flooding of spaces. He personally directed and supervised the emergency plugging and shoring of the ruptured deck in the compartment just aft of his General Quarters station immediately above where the torpedo had exploded. This prompt action prevented progressive flooding and spread of fuel oil on the second deck, thus preserving the water tight integrity of the ship's second deck. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptional, and his leadership and initiative throughout the next few days on shoring and damage control was an inspiration to all personnel aboard. Ensign Scott's initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: June 8, 1967

Service: Navy

Rank: Ensign

Company: Damage Control Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Home of record: Charlotte North Carolina

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19495>

RICHARD FRANCIS KIEPFER

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant (MC) Richard Francis Kieffer (NSN: 0-710107/2105), United States Naval Reserve, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Medical Officer in connection with the unprovoked armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personal casualties were incurred. Lieutenant Kieffer, serving as Medical Officer, was in the sick bay during the initial phases of the air attack. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine gun fire by going to different stations and compartments to administer first aid after sick bay became untenable and evacuated following a rocket hit. He treated men for pain, shock, and took emergency measures to control hemorrhage and later performed a chest operation. After the torpedo hit, he organized personnel for removing the wounded in case of an order to abandon ship. He again went to different General Quarters stations to administer first aid and made trips through some of the damaged areas to the medical storeroom for needed supplies. He organized teams of men to wash wounds and instructed less seriously wounded personnel in preparation of antibiotics for injection. He conducted a major surgical operation, giving the anesthesia (spinal) himself, with a Hospital Corpsman as his assistant and a seaman and fireman as circulating assistants. Although wounded himself, Lieutenant Kieffer treated patients in excess of thirty hours without relief or rest. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptional in an hour of awesome peril, thereby saving many lives and easing the pain and suffering of many others. His initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: June 8, 1967

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Medical Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Home of record: Brooklyn New York

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19491>



AWARDS AND CITATIONS

“AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY INCIDENT”

RICHARD JOHN BROOKS

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Machinist's Mate Richard John Brooks (NSN: 4546263), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personal casualties were incurred. Chief Petty Officer Brooks, serving as Chief Petty Officer in charge of the main machinery spaces, was in main control during the attack. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety he fearlessly proceeded throughout the main machinery space to check machinery and equipment to try to keep the ship going at maximum speed possible. Twice he was knocked from one deck to the other by vibration from rocket fire and torpedo explosion. Although wounded himself, he continued restarting equipment and talking to his men to keep up their morale during the period of time that the machinery space was filled with smoke, steam and illuminated by battle lanterns only. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptionally effective and his inspirational leadership in an hour of awesome peril. His initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Machinist's Mate

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Home of record: Brooklyn New York

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19488>

STEPHEN SPENCER TOTH

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Stephen Spencer Toth (NSN: 669613/1100), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Intelligence Officer on board the U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5), in action in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. Subjected to intense incendiary, machine-gun, and rocket fire, and placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side, LIBERTY sustained numerous personnel casualties and severe structural damage. Serving as Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Toth was on the starboard wing of the flying bridge, 04 level, when the first strafing attack occurred. It became a vital matter to quickly establish the national identity of the aircraft initiating the attack in order to inform higher authority. Lieutenant Toth courageously exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine-gun fire to obtain this data. While he was thus engaged in this task, he was fatally injured when a violent explosion on the starboard side of the bridge hurled him to the 01 level of the ship. Lieutenant Toth's aggressiveness, composure under fire, and inspiring leadership were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



General Orders: Authority: Board of Awards:

Serial 9244 (October 23, 1967)

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Intelligence Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Date of birth: 12-Sep-39

Date of death: June 8, 1967

Place of Birth: California, San Diego

Home of record: San Diego California

Status: KIA

Stephen Toth graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1963.

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19498>

MAURICE HOGUE BENNETT

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Maurice Hogue Bennett, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Lieutenant Bennett, serving as Assistant Research Officer, was in the research spaces during the attack. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety he entered a compartment which seconds before was demolished by a torpedo explosion and brought to safety one officer who had been severely burned and temporarily blinded. Though wounded himself and in spite of great personal fatigue and without regard for his own personal comfort and well-being, he supervised evacuation of the undamaged research spaces and devoted many hours in providing for the comfort, safety and welfare of his shipmates. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptional inspirational leadership in an hour of awesome peril. Lieutenant Bennett's initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Communications Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19487>



AWARDS AND CITATIONS

“AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY INCIDENT”

DAVID GEORGE LUCAS

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Ensign David George Lucas (NSN: 0-710515/1105), United States Naval Reserve, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Ensign Lucas, serving as Gunnery Officer, arrived on the bridge within moments of the initial strafing attack. A brief period of time before he reached the gun control station a large explosion occurred on the starboard wing of the bridge which incapacitated the Executive Officer, the Officer of the Deck, the sound powered telephone talkers and lookouts, and caused the instantaneous demise of the Intelligence Officer. The need to assist the Commanding Officer was immediately apparent to him. With complete disregard for his own personal safety and though already wounded he continued to fearlessly expose himself to intense, overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine gun fire to assist the Commanding Officer in maintaining ship control and communications with other vital battle stations throughout the attack. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptional for a young junior officer with limited afloat experience and inspired his seniors and subordinates alike in an hour of awesome peril. By his daring actions and loyal devotion to duty in the face of personal risk, Ensign Lucas upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: June 8, 1967

Service: Navy

Rank: Ensign

Company: Gunnery Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Home of record: Pekin Illinois

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19494>

GEORGE HOUSTON GOLDEN

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant George Houston Golden (NSN: 0-574328/6302), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Lieutenant Golden, serving as Engineering Officer, was in main control during the attack coordinating the operation of machinery for propulsion and power under battle conditions. Three times when told to “standby for torpedo attack to starboard,” Lieutenant Golden unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, and although wounded by rocket fire, relieved the phone talker and throttleman on the starboard side of the engineroom at the waterline, assuming their duties and ordered all others away from the area of imminent danger. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptional inspirational leadership in an hour of awesome peril. Lieutenant Golden’s initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Engineering Officer

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Date of birth: 18-Aug-25

Date of death: 30-Jan-09

Home of record: Virginia Beach Virginia

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19489>

BRYCE F. LOCKWOOD

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Staff Sergeant Bryce F. Lockwood (MCSN: 1859856), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Staff Sergeant Lockwood, serving with U.S.S. LIBERTY on temporary additional duty, was in the Research Operations spaces at the time of the attack. After the torpedo attack, Staff Sergeant Lockwood, despite severe burns, the rapid rise of water, heavy smoke and complete darkness, was instrumental in the rescue of personnel from the flooded compartments, thus averting even further loss of life. Without regard for his personal safety or his injuries, he assisted in the rescue until ordered to leave. His calm, rational thinking and actions evidenced a high degree of professional competence and moral fiber. After the attack and again without regard for his own injuries and comfort, Staff Sergeant Lockwood spent long tedious hours assisting in the care of the wounded and in whatever duties were required. Staff Sergeant Lockwood’s initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 8-Jun-67

Service: Marine Corps

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Home of record: Springfield Missouri

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19493>

The details in this “Awards and Citations” section are from the “U.S.S. Liberty Incident” entries found at the *MilitaryTimes*’ Hall of Valor website <http://valor.militarytimes.com> (as of Feb. 2017). Other awards – e.g. Bronze Star and Navy Commendation Medal – were not yet posted to the database.



AWARDS AND CITATIONS

“AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY INCIDENT”

ALEXANDER NEIL THOMPSON, JR.

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Gunners Mate Third Class Alexander Neil Thompson, Jr. (NSN: 7704721), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Petty Officer Thompson, serving as Gunnery Repair Petty Officer, was at Machine Gun 51 conducting an inspection when the first strafing attack occurred. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he fearlessly exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine gun fire from the attacking aircraft and opened fire on them in accordance with the ship's gunner doctrine. Although all of the other men at the station had been killed or seriously wounded during the first pass of aircraft, Petty Officer Thompson courageously and single-handedly operated Machine Gun 51 and continued to fire on the aircraft in the defense of his ship and shipmates until he was fatally wounded by a rocket blast. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire was exceptional inspirational leadership in an hour of awesome peril. Petty Officer Thompson's initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



Action Date: 8-Jun-67
Service: Navy
Rank: Gunner's Mate Third Class
Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Date of birth: 5-Apr-43
Date of death: June 8, 1967

Home of record: Wilkes Barre Pennsylvania
Status: KIA

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19497>

DAVID SKOLAK

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Interior Communications Electrician Fireman David Skolak (NSN: B-501783), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with the armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. Liberty was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine-gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personnel casualties were incurred. Fireman Skolak was performing routine repairs to interior communications when the first strafing attack occurred. Several shipmates in the near vicinity were immediately wounded by the hostile fire. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own safety, Fireman Skolak fearlessly exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine-gun fire in an attempt to evacuate the wounded men from the forecabin. While performing these valiant acts, he was fatally wounded. Fireman Skolak's initiative, aggressiveness, courageous actions, and coolness under heavy fire served to inspire all who observed him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



Action Date: 8-Jun-67
Service: Navy
Rank: Interior Communications Electrician
Fireman
Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Date of birth: 12-Aug-46
Date of death: June 8, 1967
Place of Birth: Indiana, Gary

Home of record: Gary Indiana
Status: KIA

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19496>

DALE DUANE LARKINS

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

SILVER STAR

Awarded for actions during the
U.S.S. Liberty Incident

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Seaman Dale Duane Larkins (NSN: 9294893), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action in connection with the unprovoked and unexpected armed attack on U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5), in the Eastern Mediterranean, on 8 June 1967. During the early afternoon hours, U.S.S. LIBERTY, while engaged in peaceful operations in international waters, was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and three motor torpedo boats. The LIBERTY was subjected to intense incendiary, machine gun, and rocket fire and was placed in extreme jeopardy by a torpedo hit below the waterline on the starboard side in the vicinity of the Research compartment. Severe structural damage and extensive personal casualties were incurred. Seaman Larkins, serving as loader and telephone talker on machine gun 54, arrived on station shortly after the initial strafing attack. The station was untenable due to intense flames coming from burning gasoline cans on the deck below. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he fearlessly exposed himself to overwhelmingly accurate rocket and machine gun fire from the attacking aircraft and proceeded to machine gun 53 to assist. Machine gun 53 was soon enveloped in flames from the burning motor whale boat. Seaman Larkins then courageously helped extinguish fires while the aircraft were still attacking. Still with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he single-handedly manned mount 51 and fired on the attacking torpedo boats until he received the order to "cease fire." He then helped carry several of his wounded shipmates to where they could be given medical aid. His aggressiveness and coolness under fire undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his shipmates and was exemplary in an hour of awesome peril. Seaman Larkins' initiative and courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 8-Jun-67
Service: Navy
Rank: Seaman
Division: U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)

Home of record: Lincoln, Nebraska
<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19492>



IN THE WORDS OF SURVIVORS . . .

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“USS Liberty Story” — *Israeli forces attacked the USS Liberty in 1967 in what was officially deemed a tragic case of mistaken identity. Crew members including several FRA shipmates, contend it was a deliberate attack that killed 34 Americans and wounded 174 others.* Ernie Gallo, Phil Tourney and Lauren Armstrong | *FRA Today* | **June 2016** | p.18-20, 22-24, 26, 27

https://www.fra.org/FRA/Web/FRA_Docs/FRAToday/2016/June%202016%20PDF%20-%20USS%20Liberty%20Story.pdf

This article contains *Liberty* crew accounts from Phil Tourney (p19, 22, 23, 26, 27), Larry Bowen (p19, 22, 24, 26), Ernie Gallo (p20, 23, 26), Bob Casale (p20), Frank Brown (p22), Maurice Bennett (p22), Ron Kukal (p26), and Don Pageler (p27). Other crew members mentioned: Rick Aimetti (p20, 22, 23), Captain William McGonagle (p20, 22, 23, 26) Francis Brown (p20), Raymond Geis (p20), and Bob Eisenberg (p27).

A Tale of Survival and Deceit – The True story of the USS Liberty | Jack Beattie (USN, Ret.) and Bryce Lockwood (USMC, Ret.) *The Free Thought Project* | **6/8/16** (Posted on youtube under “USS Liberty – the Real Story – as told by the survivors”)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC7tVVpVG6w>

Survivor of Israeli Attack on USS Liberty: It Could Not Have Been a Mistake | *The Real News Network*

To mark the 48th anniversary of the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty, TRNN’s Paul Jay speaks to survivor Sgt. Bryce Lockwood (USMC, Ret.) and former CIA Analyst Ray McGovern.

1 of 2 – **7/1/15**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMzvgCLtCG8>

2 of 2 – **7/2/15**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJr3gNNn05g>

Ernie Gallo*: “The U.S.S. Liberty: what really happened? What did not?” | National Press Club, Washington, D.C. | **3/7/14**

*Ernest A. Gallo is president of the USS Liberty Veterans Association. He is a former Communications Technician, Second Class in the Navy Reserve. Following his active duty with the U.S. Navy Gallo had a 28-and-a-half year career with the CIA supporting U.S. communications around the world.

C-SPAN3: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4487278/uss-liberty-survivor-speaks> Transcript: http://natsummit.org/transcripts/ernie_gallo.htm
Video also at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLr9fjg6cmM>. [Other National Summit speakers: <http://natsummit.org/program.htm>]

USS Liberty survivors: Ernest Gallo; Rick Aimetti; Jim Smith | *PressTV* | **11/8/14**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOtexKDspcc>

The Story of U.S.S. Liberty Survivor Richard Larry Weaver | *DTRH* | **6/6/14**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ-0e96g7OE>

R Larry Weaver “was the most injured of the survivors, and has had over 100 surgeries since 1967. His story makes any action movie pale by comparison. Take two hours tonight to hear his story, and the story of the rest of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty.” Also see 6/8/12 interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3nr3XlfNW8>

Attack on USS Liberty | *PressTV* | **2013** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDyJbjLv4O8>

Donald W. Pageler: “USS Liberty a pictorial story” | Western Museum of Flight Celebrity Lecture Series (Posted on youtube under “Attack on the USS Liberty”, **5/9/13**)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUU08xnVaGM>

Slide show only: <http://www.docfoc.com/uss-liberty-a-pictorial-story-donald-w-pageler>

Pageler’s presentation is “about the tragic attacks on the USS Liberty where he was serving as a classified communication specialist. . . .” [At time stamp 14:23 Pageler says: “. . . about three or four years ago he [Halbardier] was given the Silver Star . . . It turns out that his silver star citation is the first document that actually names the Israelis as the people who attacked us.” Note: James Terry Halbardier’s Silver Star award and citation includes the statement: “The U.S.S. LIBERTY was attacked by Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea on the fourth day of the SIX DAY WAR.”

<http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=19490>

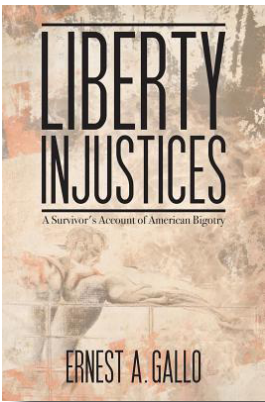


USS LIBERTY AT PORT IN MALTA AFTER THE JUNE 8, 1967 ATTACK.



IN THE WORDS OF SURVIVORS . . .

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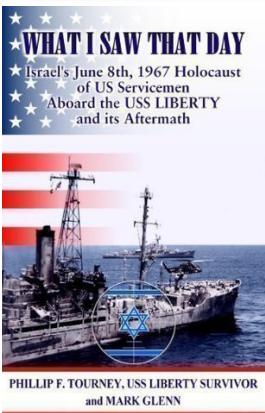


[BOOK] *Liberty Injustices: A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry* | Ernest A. Gallo | Michael Ray King Publishing, 2013 <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18471929-liberty-injustices>

Dave E. Lewis signed/notarized affidavit, State of Vermont | 4/22/12
<http://www.uslibertyveterans.org/files/Dave%20Lewis%20Affidavit.pdf>

Lloyd C. Painter signed/notarized affidavit, State of Texas | 4/23/12
<http://www.uslibertyveterans.org/files/Lloyd%20Painter%20Affidavit.pdf>

History Counts presents James M. Ennes, Jr. | Hosted by Ken MacDermotRoe | 2/1/12
https://wn.com/israel's_assault_on_the_u.s.s._liberty_with_james_ennis
Also posted on youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF_6k1c_0ds

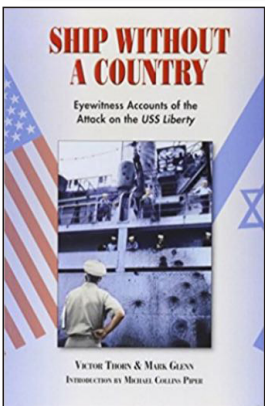


[BOOK] *What I Saw That Day: Israel's June 8, 1967 Holocaust of U.S. Servicemen Aboard the USS Liberty and its Aftermath* | Phil F. Tournay, USS Liberty Survivor; and Mark Glenn | Liberty Publications, 2011 <https://www.goodreads.com/work/editions/13224585-what-i-saw-that-day-israel-s-june-8-1967-holocaust-of-us-servicemen-aboa>

Your Voice Counts with Phil Tournay | RBN | Show time: Saturday 10am-12pm CST
<http://www.republicbroadcastingarchives.org/category/phil-tournay/page/2/>
Archives: <http://www.republicbroadcastingarchives.org/category/phil-tournay/>

Statement of Survivor Glenn Oliphant | no date <http://www.uslibertyveterans.org/files/GlennOliphant.pdf>

“Review of *The Liberty Incident Revealed* by A. Jay Cristol” | Joe Meadows, USS Liberty Survivor
<http://www.uslibertyveterans.org/files/Review%20of%20The%20Liberty%20Incident%20Revealed.pdf>



[BOOK] *Ship Without a Country -- Eyewitness Accounts of the Attack on the USS Liberty* | Edited by Victor Thorn and Mark Glenn | Read the accounts of Larry Weaver, Jim Ennes, Dave Lewis, Ernie Gallo, Admiral Merlin Staring, Joe Lenten, and Gary Brummett | *American Free Press*
2009: 82pp <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23510669-ship-without-a-country>
2009: http://americanfreepress.net/PDF/Ship_Without_a_Country.pdf
2016: 88pp <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32797568-ship-without-a-country>

Phil Tournay's speech, USS Liberty survivor | No more Wars For Israel Conference | 10/13/07
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCDjoc7FBbk>

“Four Decades of Twisting Facts About Israel's Attack on the USS Liberty”

James Ennes | *WRMEA* | May-June 2007
<http://www.wrmea.org/2007-may-june/four-decades-of-twisting-facts-about-israels-attack-on-the-uss-liberty.html>

“An Open Letter to President Clinton” (Re: Jonathan Pollard) | Captain William L. McGonagle, USN (Ret.), Member, CMOH Society, Palm Springs, CA, 10/24/98 <http://www.usliberty.org/mcg2prez.pdf>

“USS Liberty: Periscope Photography May Finally Reveal Truth” — Anniversary of a 30-Year Investigation

James M. Ennes, Jr. | *WRMEA* | June/July 1997
<http://www.wrmea.org/1997-june-july/anniversary-of-a-30-year-investigation-uss-liberty-periscope-photography-may-finally-reveal-truth.html>

Excerpt: In February 1997, we were contacted by a man who, like the first visitor in the cafeteria, told us, “I was there. We watched the attack through the periscope and took pictures.” He added, “News reports said Liberty was under attack for only five minutes, but that attack lasted more than an hour.”

This person identified himself as a relatively senior member of the crew of the submarine, but he was unwilling to give his name or to talk to us except through a third party, as he feared punishment for telling the story. He did, however, give us the name of the submarine: *USS Amberjack SS522*, a Guppy (snorkel)-equipped diesel boat built in 1945. He also told us that *Amberjack's* mission was reconnaissance within U.A.R. waters. Apparently *Amberjack* was the Frontlet 615 submarine.



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This source gained credibility when we obtained *Amberjack's* official ship's history from the Department of Defense. *Amberjack* was indeed in the area during the Six-Day War, just as he said.

Further searches of Navy-oriented Web sites on the Internet quickly turned up four more *Amberjack* crewmen from the "Med Cruise" of June 1967. Some of these were *Amberjack's* most senior enlisted men. All four of these men, contacted by telephone, readily told us that they were very close to *USS Liberty* when we came under attack. *Amberjack* was so close, they said, and the sound of gunfire, missiles and the torpedo explosion so loud, that some of the crew thought *Amberjack* was under depth charge attack.

These men, all career submariners and all fairly senior at the time, had not seen or talked to one another for many years. Yet they all told the same story. They were very close to or "almost directly under" *Liberty* when the ship came under attack. *Amberjack* was specially fitted for periscope photography and was fully capable of photographing the attack, they said, although none of these four was certain that pictures were taken.

All four men told us that *Amberjack* proceeded from the Gaza Strip to a brief stop at Souda Bay, Crete, where the ship was kept at anchorage and the crew was not allowed ashore. Next, *Amberjack* went to Malta, where she tied up near the *Liberty*.

"My 'Claims, Fact and Comments' . . ." | Richard Samuel 'Rocky' Sturman <http://www.ussliberty.org/pdf/sturmanstatement.pdf>

"Did Israel's Armed Forces Commit One War Crime to Hide Another?" | James M. Ennes, Jr. | *WRMEA* | **May/June 1996**
<http://www.wrmea.org/1996-may-june/did-israel-s-armed-forces-commit-one-war-crime-to-hide-another.html>

The USS Liberty – Dissenting History vs. Official History by John E. Borne, Ph.D. | Book review by James M. Ennes, Jr. | *WRMEA* | **July/Aug. 1995** <http://www.wrmea.org/1995-july-august/the-uss-liberty-dissenting-history-vs.-official-history.html>

Excerpt: "What," Borne asks, "really happened? Is it possible to know? Why were crew members not protected from attack as they had been promised? How in a free society does a government present as fact a version of history that differs markedly from that reported by eyewitnesses? How is the dissenting version squelched? How can the silenced group overcome the tactics of a powerful and motivated government? Where is the press while these things are happening?"

"The Assault on the USS Liberty Still Covered Up After 26 Years" | James M. Ennes Jr.* | *WRMEA* | **June 1993**
<http://www.wrmea.org/1993-june/the-assault-on-the-uss-liberty-still-covered-up-after-26-years.html>

* "James Ennes retired from the Navy in 1978 as a lieutenant commander after 27 years of enlisted and commissioned service. He was a lieutenant on the bridge of the *USS Liberty* on the day of the attack. His book on the subject, *Assault on the Liberty* (Random House, 1980), is a 'Notable Naval Book' selection of the U. S. Naval Institute and was 'editors' choice' when reviewed in *The Washington Post*. . ."

Excerpt from subsection **"Israeli Pilot Speaks Up"**: Fifteen years after the attack, an Israeli pilot approached *Liberty* survivors and then held extensive interviews with former Congressman Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey about his role. According to this senior Israeli lead pilot, he recognized the *Liberty* as American immediately, so informed his headquarters, and was told to ignore the American flag and continue his attack. He refused to do so and returned to base, where he was arrested.

Later, a dual-citizen Israeli major told survivors that he was in an Israeli war room where he heard that pilot's radio report. The attacking pilots and everyone in the Israeli war room knew that they were attacking an American ship, the major said. He recanted the statement only after he received threatening phone calls from Israel.

The pilot's protests also were heard by radio monitors in the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon. Then-U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dwight Porter has confirmed this. Porter told his story to syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak and offered to submit to further questioning by authorities. Unfortunately, no one in the U.S. government has any interest in hearing these first-person accounts of Israeli treachery.

"The USS Liberty Affair" | James M. Ennes, Jr. | *The Link*, Vol. 17, No. 2 | **May/June 1984**
<http://www.ameu.org/getattachment/d32d97e3-4440-42b5-99c2-f6fe0bd5b3b7/The-USS-Liberty-Affair.aspx>

Excerpt: The campaign [to keep the *Liberty* story under control] was so effective that most American newspapers and all commercial television networks dropped the story almost overnight before most of the facts were known. No American newsman probed for the inside story of the *USS Liberty* affair. No member of Congress called publicly for the facts. No crewmen were interviewed on the evening news. Even today, few people anywhere have ever heard of the *USS Liberty*.

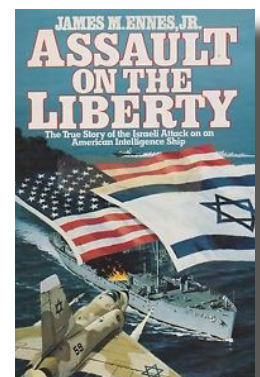
[BOOK] ***Assault on the Liberty — The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship***

James M. Ennes, Jr.; Foreword by Thomas H. Moorer, Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

1979: Random House, 299pp: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3413005-assault-on-the-liberty>

1987: Ballantine Books, 368pp: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1264808.Assault_on_the_Liberty

<http://vho.org/aaargh/fran/livres9/Liberty.pdf> http://www.lander.odessa.ua/doc/Ennes_James_M_Jr_-_Assault_on_the_Liberty.pdf





THE U.S.S. *LIBERTY* STORY

THE U.S.S. *LIBERTY* — THE MOST DECORATED NAVY SHIP (SINGLE ACTION)

BY ERNEST A. GALLO

THE USS *LIBERTY* VETERANS ASSOCIATION (LVA) has tried for over 45 years to expose the true story of the deliberate Israeli attack on the USS *Liberty* to the American people through books, news media, movies, and letters to the President of the United States and congressmen. The mission of the LVA is to pursue the publication of the true story. While we have encountered politicians and news media personnel who were willing to help, they have been unable to interest their superiors or others in supporting our cause. Due to political correctness, many people believe it is just too risky to say anything negative about Israel. FYI: The USS *Liberty* is the most decorated US Navy ship in the history of the Navy for a single action.

THE ISSUE

The Israelis and the US Government do not want the truth to be told. It is obvious that they fear that America may be less of a supportive ally if the truth were known. The truth of their deeds *and* the Johnson Administration require an objective and complete investigation. Congress has never officially investigated the attack and so the attack continues to be a cover-up of the worst magnitude. The House has a constitutional mandate to “define and punish Pirates and Felonies committed on the high seas and offenses against the Law of Nations (Article 1, section 8)”. Regarding the Arab/Israeli '67 War, we believe the operational plan was *Operation Cyanide*. We have discovered that the USS *Liberty* was part of this plan. This document should be declassified immediately and released to the American public for **analytical historic purposes**. The complicity of the Israelis and the Johnson Administration in starting the Six Day War alarmed the Soviet Union. When the Soviets suspected that the U.S. was planning to enter the war militarily, they challenged President Johnson with a military confrontation and President Johnson wisely backed down from any further military activities leaving Israel to fend for themselves. On June 8, 1967, the USS *Liberty* was now a perceived threat to Israel's war agenda and they were not entertaining peace until the Golan Heights were taken a few days later. It is obvious that an American/Soviet confrontation **did not** matter to them – just so long as the Soviets stayed out of their way.



AFTER THE USS *LIBERTY* WAS ATTACKED BY ISRAELI FORCES ON JUNE 8, 1967, A SIXTH FLEET HELICOPTER PICKS UP *LIBERTY*'S DEAD CREWMEN WHO WERE KILLED DURING THE ATTACK.

SYNOPSIS OF OUR STORY

On June 8, 1967, the Israeli Defense Forces murdered 34 Americans on the high seas (31 sailors, 2 marines, and a NSA civilian). Out of a total compliment of 294 men, 70% of the crew became casualties as 174 were wounded in addition to the 34 killed. Israel's use of a torpedo attack was the willful attempted murder of 294 Americans on the high seas.

For 6 hours the morning before the attack, the ship was subjected to intense scrutiny by Israeli photo-reconnaissance aircraft, 12 over flights, flying as low as 200 feet. The USS *Liberty* had traditional American markings on her bow (GTR-5) and stern (USS *LIBERTY*) and flying a large American Flag standing out in the breeze. She was sailing in international waters off the Egyptian coast on a clear and sunny day. The ship was a WWII victory hull cargo ship, lightly armed with four 50 caliber machine guns for repel boarder

purposes. Her military mission was to monitor, intercept, and record all radio transmissions in the ambient ether. The attack occurred in three coordinated phases (Israeli Air Force, Navy, and Marines)

(Phase 1) Following aircraft observations, the Israelis began the attack with 3 fighter jets which strafed, rocketed, and bombed the *Liberty*. (Phase 2) This was followed with 3 torpedo boats that fired 40mm canons and torpedoes. Since the *Liberty* was a virtually unarmed vessel and not a military threat, at no time did the torpedo boats request the *Liberty* surrender as did the North Koreans regarding the USS *Pueblo* in 1968. The Israeli choice that day was live target practice as the USS *Liberty* could not fight back. The motor torpedo boats leisurely circled the ship shooting at anything that moved and whatever target suited their whim. It defies logic as to why they expended so many munitions on a defenseless ship unless they were trying to send the United States a message. When they were finished, the *Liberty* was riddled with 821 holes, sustained 2 napalm bombs, and a torpedo blowing a 24 by 39 foot hole in her starboard side. Miraculously, the *Liberty* refused to sink and was able to get underway under her own power. It was obvious to the *Liberty* crew that survivors were not to be taken as the Israelis were observed machine gunning life rafts and fire fighters.

Continued next page



At the beginning of the attack, the *Liberty* Radiomen and Electronic Technicians attempted to send a May Day. Responding to our SOS about 15 minutes into the Israeli attack, the USS *Saratoga* launched conventionally armed fighter aircraft to assist the USS *Liberty*. Our SOS did not identify the attacker at the time as the identity of the attacker was unknown. Within minutes after the launch, the White House recalled all aircraft abandoning the USS *Liberty* subjecting her to an additional 1 hour of an Israeli turkey shoot. In disbelief, RADM Raymond Geis, Sixth Fleet Carrier Division Commander, challenged the order (as was his right and responsibility in this situation). Unbelievably, the White House **again** reaffirmed the order to recall all aircraft despite her plea for help. Without an investigation, it cannot be determined if Sixth fleet aircraft would have prevented the Israeli torpedo boat attack and ended all hostility thus preventing the torpedo attack murdering 25 of the 34 crew.

(Phase 3) When hostilities ceased, helicopters were observed overhead with Israeli commandos at the ready to finish us off. Fortunately, the Israelis intercepted an invalid message that U.S. help was on the way (the Israelis had no way of knowing that the aircraft were recalled). Israel was reluctantly forced to terminate its ongoing attack. Ironically help did not arrive until **18 hours** after the attack when the *Liberty* was only **15 air minutes** away from USS *Saratoga* and USS *America* fighter jets. In addition to the loss of American lives, Israelis destroyed one of the most advanced intelligence ships.

Proof that Israel positively knew that she was attacking an American ship: Three Air Force intelligence personnel at different locations and unaware of each others responsibilities (Ronald Gotcher, Steve Forslund, and Richard Block), observed real time U.S. Air Force Security Group aircraft translations (Hebrew to English) of intercept discussions between the attacking Israel fighter pilots and their ground controllers. The ground control station asked the pilots to confirm the target was American and they replied "yes". Ground control then ordered the aircraft to attack and sink the target and ensure no survivors.

In conjunction with the above, another confirmation that the attack was deliberate comes from the Israeli State Archives (*Ha'aretz*, Israel's leading newspaper). That is, U.S. Ambassador (Amb.) to the UN, Arthur Goldberg revealed to Israeli Amb. Avraham Harman that the Americans managed to record the Israeli pilots during the attack and the recordings proved they knew their target was an American vessel. Goldberg told Harman there was only one way out of the crisis: Israel had to put someone on trial which never happened.

Congress has never officially investigated the attack and so the attack continues to be a cover-up of the worst magnitude. The House has a constitutional mandate to "define and punish Pirates and Felonies committed on the high seas and offenses against the Law of Nations ..."

The subsequent US Naval Court of Inquiry was a sham. It sorely lacked naval judicial standards (as cited by Rear Admiral Merlin Starling, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy) and was **deliberately falsified** to compliment the Israeli story (as observed by retired Navy Lawyer, Captain Ward Boston in a sworn affidavit). Details acquired were either changed or dropped so that the Israeli version indicated that the attack was a tragic mistake. The orders to falsify came directly from President Johnson. **This is obstruction of justice at the highest levels.** The rights of 291 military personnel were violated.

The survivors of the USS *Liberty* were told never to talk about the incident under penalty of fine and/or imprisonment. Military orders that followed were in line with the White House which was not to indicate on any documents, monuments, and the like that Israel was the attacker. As an example, the USS *Liberty* skipper, Captain William McGonagle was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions to keep the ship afloat and operational, saving countless lives. His award was given to him **not** by President Johnson at the White House which was the custom. The Captain's medal was presented to him by the Secretary of the Navy at a low level Washington Navy Yard ceremony and his citation lacked any mention of an Israeli attack.

Note: Everything written heretofore and the remaining details are accurate and can be proven by corroborated individual witness testimony, logical deduction, and documentation.

CONCLUSION

What a crime it would be for historical reasons if the US Government continues to lie about details of the Six Day War. **In the end, truth always wins out.** What a shame for elected officials who will not stand up to be counted. For the sake of our fallen 34 shipmates, we will not give up. They deserve justice! On June 8, 2005, the LVA filed a *War Crimes Report* against Israel in compliance with a Department of Defense Directive. The Pentagon has indicated that no investigation will take place. The LVA only asks for a complete and honest investigation.

The crew of the USS *Liberty* did everything possible not to give up our ship and fight the only way we could by maintaining our vital engineering propulsion machinery, water tight integrity, and most of all help keep our wounded alive. With the decorations mentioned, we have been dishonored and chastised by the lies of Israel and our Government. The United States

Regarding the Arab/Israeli '67 War, we believe the operational plan was *Operation Cyanide*. We have discovered that the USS *Liberty* was part of this plan. This document should be declassified immediately and released to the American public for analytical historic purposes.

Continued next page



Government does not understand that by joining the Israeli lie (that the attack was a case of mistaken identity), they: make the LVA appear as Jewish bigots; frustrate our efforts to distance ourselves from Neo-Nazi organization that use us thereby aiding the bigot label; ignore the fact that since Israel used a torpedo, this was the attempted murder of 294 Americans; and, never pressed Israel for the perpetrators of the attack. They: do not realize the embarrassment to the crew as we are considered the “bad guys” for speaking up; put the Israeli relationship over and above the crew of the USS *Liberty*; and, dishonors the crew and our lost shipmates by making us a politically correct item of the day. Time after time, the eye witnesses of the attack, the *Liberty* crew, are called conspiracy theorist. Because the event involved Israel and compounded by a state lie, we are automatically labeled – a bunch of whiners. I guess we are supposed to keep our mouths shut – after all, Israel is our ally. I suppose if no one was killed or wounded, we could possibly do that. However, the fact that 34 were murdered, 174 wounded, and they attempted to murder 294 Americans, we would be remiss as Americans if we did not speak out as our 34 shipmates would have died for nothing.

The subsequent US Naval Court of Inquiry was a sham.

It sorely lacked naval judicial standards (as cited by Rear Admiral Merlin Staring, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy) and was deliberately falsified to compliment the Israeli story (as observed by retired Navy Lawyer, Captain Ward Boston in a sworn affidavit).

WE NEED YOU

After reading this article, if your American spirit is challenged, please write to the President of the United States and your congressmen requesting an official investigation. If enough citizens demand to know the truth, the pressure may

be too great for our distracters to stop us. Make no mistake, our society will be the winners when the complete truth of the attack on the USS *Liberty* and the Six Day War (June 67) are fully understood. The US Government can then stop living this lie and history can then be recorded accurately. *Your Tax deductible contributions are also gladly accepted. Please help! Become an Associate member of the USS Liberty Veteran Association for \$20.00 and receive our periodic newsletter. Since we are 501c3 tax exempt, all desperately needed donations are tax deductible.*

God bless America and may God give our officials the grace and courage to do the right thing and initiate a proper and honest investigation.

Ernest A. Gallo is a former CTM-2, USS Liberty survivor, and a member and former President of the USS Liberty Veterans Assn., ernie7900@aol.com

BOOKS

Liberty Injustices – A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry
Author: Ernest A. Gallo

Eagles Are Gathering
Author: Merlin Miller

LBJ: From Mastermind to "The Colossus"
Author: Phillip F. Nelson

Assault on The Liberty – The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship
Author: James M. Ennes, Jr.

Guilt by Association – How Deception and Self-Deceit Took America to War
Author: Jeff Gates

The Attack on the Liberty – The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship
Author: James Scott

What I Saw That Day – Israel's June 8, 1967 Holocaust of U.S. Servicemen Aboard the USS Liberty and its Aftermath
Author: Phil F. Tourney

Body of Secrets – Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency from the Cold War Through the Dawn of a New Century
Author: James Bamford

REFERENCES

FILMS

Justice for the Liberty, Break of Dawn Production

Dead in the Water, BBC Films

History Undercover, Cover Up: Attack on the USS Liberty, The History Channel

WEB SITES

USS Liberty Document Center

<http://www.uslibertydocumentcenter.org>

USS Liberty Veterans Association

<http://www.uslibertyveterans.org>

USS Liberty (website by John Gidusko, LT, USN, Ret.)

<http://www.gidusko.com>

LIST

Over 30 prominent US Officials, Admirals, and authors who believe the attack was deliberate. Among them are: Admiral Thomas Moorer (former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Richard Helms (former CIA Director), and Dean Rusk (former Secretary of State). A complete list provided upon request. Other documents can also be provided upon request. Email: ernie7900@aol.com

You can also contact us at the following address:

USS Liberty Veterans Association
PO Box 680275, Marietta, Georgia 30068
770-363-3986



DOCUMENTS

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents (originals dated 1967; approved for release March 2006):

COMMENT ON KNOWN IDENTITY OF USS LIBERTY / RESUMPTION OF OIL PRODUCTION

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/deleted-comment-known-identity-uss-libertyresumption-oil-production>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/print/187009>

Partial text from the 1-page CIA Information Report:

COUNTRY **Israel**

SUBJECT [REDACTED] **Comment on known identity of USS LIBERTY/
Resumption of Oil Production of Red Sea Wells by Israel**

DATE OF INFO **Early Jun 67**

PLACE & DATE ACQ. **Tel Aviv – Early Jun 67**

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED] brought up the attack on the USS LIBERTY by Israeli airplanes and torpedo boats. He said that "you've got to remember that in this campaign there is neither time nor room for mistakes," which was intended as an obtuse reference that Israel's forces knew what flag the LIBERTY was flying and exactly what the vessel was doing off the coast. [REDACTED] implied that the ship's identity was known at least six hours before the attack but that Israeli head quarters was not sure as to how many people might have access to the information the LIBERTY was intercepting. He also implied that there was no certainty of control as to where the intercepted information was going and again reiterated that Israeli forces did not make mistakes in their campaigns. He was emphatic in stating to me that they knew what kind of a ship the USS LIBERTY was and what it was doing offshore.
3. [REDACTED] inquired as to resumption of production facilities. He talked about two fields near the Gulf of Suez on the Sinai Peninsula which had been set afire by the Arabs. Israeli forces extinguished the fires the same day that the fields were captured and were then (10-11 Jun 67) starting to pump oil. Both Egyptian fields were said to have been developed by foreign companies and [REDACTED] Israel intends to continue pro-rata payments.

- end -

PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL AMBITIONS OF MOSHE DAYAN/ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY ORDERED

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/prospects-political-ambitions-moshe-dayanattack-uss-liberty-ordered>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/print/147569>

Partial text from the 1-page CIA Information Report:

SUBJECT **Prospects for Political Ambitions
of Moshe Dayan/Attack on USS Liberty [sic.] Ordered by Dayan**

DATE OF INFO. **Oct 1967**

PLACE & DATE ACQ. **Tel Aviv – 1967**

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED] **Source is normally available should this report generate requirements.**

1. [REDACTED] discussions include the future political role of Moshe Dayan. [REDACTED] said that the longer Israel waits for elections, the less chance Dayan has of becoming Prime Minister. They recognize that Dayan's appointment as Minister of Defense provided impetus to the Israel war effort. Since the war, responsible Israelis have given and continue to give less credit to Dayan and more credit to Genral [sic.] Rabin. [REDACTED] also are emphatic in saying that there will never be a negotiated peace with the Arabs so long as Dayan is Defense Minister.
2. [REDACTED] commented on the sinking of the US communications ship, Liberty. They said that Dayan personally ordered the attack on the ship and that one of his generals adamantly opposed the action and said, "This is pure murder." One of the admirals who was present also disapproved the action, and it was he who ordered it stopped and not Dayan. [REDACTED] believe that the attack against the US vessel is also detrimental to any political ambition Dayan may have.

- end -

TURKISH GENERAL STAFF OPINION REGARDING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/turkish-general-staff-opinion-regarding-israeli-attack-uss-liberty>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/print/171017>



DOCUMENTS

Partial text from the 1-page CIA Intelligence Information Cable:

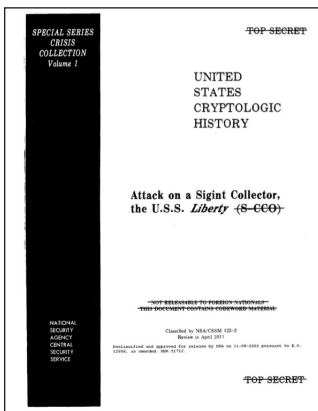
THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

COUNTRY ISRAEL/TURKEY/USA
JUNE 1967
SUBJECT: TURKISH GENERAL STAFF OPINION REGARDING
 THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY
ACQ: TURKEY, ANKARA (22 JUNE 1967)
SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. THE TURKISH MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV RECENTLY RETURNED TO TURKEY AND BRIEFED THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS) CONCERNING THE ARAB ISRAELI WAR.

2. THE TGS IS CONVINCED THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE LIBERTY ON 8 JUNE 1967 WAS DELIBERATE. IT WAS DONE BECAUSE THE LIBERTY'S COMMO ACTIVITY WAS HAVING THE EFFECT OF JAMMING ISRAELI MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE TGS OFFICER DID NOT SPECIFY THAT THE MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV WAS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.)

3. FIELD DISSEN: NONE.



Attack on a SIGINT Collector, the USS Liberty (1981), approved for release 8 Nov. 2006:

William D. Gerhard and Henry W. Millington, NSA History Report, United States Cryptologic History, Special Series Crisis Collection, Vol. 1, National Security Agency. Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 11-08-2006 to E.O. 12958 as amended, MDR 51712. Pdf:

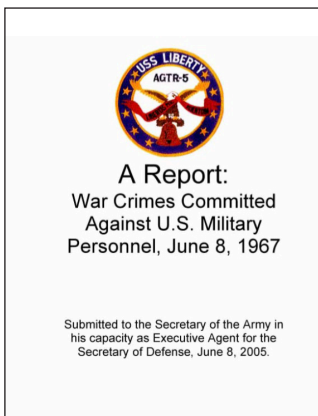
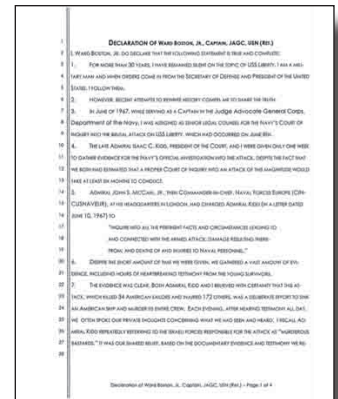
<https://www.nsa.gov/news-features/declassified-documents/uss-liberty/assets/files/chronology-events/attack-sigint.pdf>

“Declaration of Ward Boston, Jr., Captain, JAGC, USN (Ret.)”

Signed affidavit dated 8 Jan. 2004, Coronado, CA. Boston was “senior legal counsel for the Navy’s Court of Inquiry into the brutal attack on USS Liberty.” http://www.ifamericansknew.org/us_ints/ul-boston.html

Video of Ward Boston explaining why he decided to speak publicly about the Navy Court of Inquiry’s 1967 investigation on the USS Liberty incident: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytHtFh_MPpU

Pdf: <http://www.usslibertydocumentcenter.org/doc/upload/Ward%20Boston%20Testimony.pdf>



A Report: War Crimes Committed Against U.S. Military Personnel, June 8, 1967 — Submitted to the Secretary of the Army in his capacity as Executive Agent for the Secretary of Defense, 8 June 2005.

“This report of war crimes committed against U.S. military personnel is submitted to the Honorable Secretary of the Army in his capacity as Executive Agent for the Secretary of Defense, pursuant to Department of Defense Directive Number 5810.01B (29 March 2004).”

“This Report is filed by the USS Liberty Veterans Association, Inc. a California non-profit corporation, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt veterans, acting on behalf of the surviving crewmembers of USS Liberty.”

<http://www.ussliberty.org/report/report.htm> Pdf:

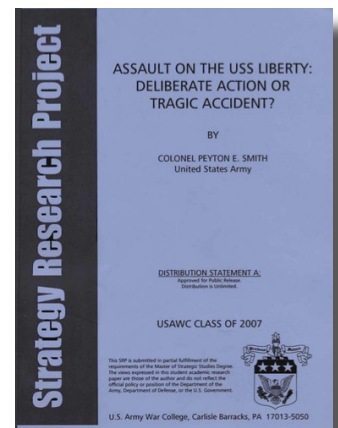
<http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/War%20Crimes%20Report.pdf>

Assault on the USS Liberty: Deliberate Action Or Tragic Accident?

Col. Peyton E. Smith, U.S. Army | 30 May 2007

USAWC Strategy Research Project.

Pdf: <http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/ArmyWarCollege.pdf>





DOCUMENTS

FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE "USS LIBERTY," THE RECALL OF MILITARY RESCUE SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WHILE THE SHIP WAS UNDER ATTACK, AND THE SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Published in the *Congressional Record – Extension of Remarks* (Oct. 11, 2004), under "IN RECOGNITION OF ADMIRAL THOMAS H. MOORER", submitted by the Hon. John Conyers, Jr. of Michigan on 7 Oct. 2004. Pdf: <https://www.congress.gov/crec/2004/10/11/CREC-2004-10-11-pt1-PgE1886-3.pdf> or http://usslibertydocumentcenter.org/doc/upload/Independent_Commission_Israeli_Attack_USS_Liberty.pdf or online: http://ifamericaknew.org/us_ints/ul-commfindings.html



Thomas Hinman Moorer
Admiral, United States Navy
9 Feb. 1912 - 5 Feb. 2004

IN RECOGNITION OF ADMIRAL
THOMAS H. MOORER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on February 5 of this year, a legendary American naval hero passed away in Bethesda, Maryland. Admiral Thomas H. Moorer epitomized the finest qualities of dedication and national service. His distinguished naval career spanned 41 years, including service as a naval aviator, as one of the first pilots off the ground during the attack on Pearl Harbor, as a decorated hero of numerous combat missions in the Southwest Pacific and the Battle of Midway, as Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, as commander of NATO's U.S. Atlantic Command and the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, becoming the only officer in the Navy's history to command both our Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, as Chief of Naval Operations, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as a tireless advocate for American veterans. Admiral Moorer was instrumental in establishing the United States Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue. In numerous appearances before Congressional Committees, Admiral Moorer provided valuable testimony on a variety of national security concerns.

Capping this extraordinary career, Admiral Moorer made his final appearance on Capitol Hill on October 22, 2003, as Chairman of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the 1967 attack on the USS *Liberty*. It is a privilege for me to introduce the Findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry Into the Israeli Attack on the USS *Liberty* into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS "LIBERTY," THE RECALL OF MILITARY RESCUE SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WHILE THE SHIP WAS UNDER ATTACK, AND THE SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

We, the undersigned, having undertaken an independent investigation of Israel's attack on the USS *Liberty*, including eyewitness testimony from surviving crewmembers, a review of naval and other official records, an examination of official statements by the Israeli and American governments, a study of the conclusions of all previous official inquiries, and a consideration of important

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new evidence and recent statements from individuals having direct knowledge of the attack or the cover up, hereby find the following:

1. That on June 8, 1967, after eight hours of aerial surveillance, Israel launched a two-hour air and naval attack against the USS *Liberty*, the world's most sophisticated intelligence ship, inflicting 34 dead and 172 wounded American servicemen (a casualty rate of seventy percent, in a crew of 294);

2. That the Israeli air attack lasted approximately 25 minutes, during which time unmarked Israeli aircraft dropped napalm canisters on the *Liberty's* bridge, and fired 30mm cannons and rockets into our ship, causing 821 holes, more than 100 of which were rocket-size; survivors estimate 30 or more sorties were flown over the ship by a minimum of 12 attacking Israeli planes which were jamming all five American emergency radio channels;

3. That the torpedo boat attack involved not only the firing of torpedoes, but the machine-gunning of the *Liberty's* firefighters and stretcher-bearers as they struggled to save their ship and crew; the Israeli torpedo boats later returned to machine-gun at close range three of the *Liberty's* life rafts that had been lowered into the water by survivors to rescue the most seriously wounded;

4. That there is compelling evidence that Israel's attack was a deliberate attempt to destroy an American ship and kill her entire crew; evidence of such intent is supported by statements from Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Undersecretary of State George Ball, former CIA director Richard Helms, former NSA directors Lieutenant General William Odom, USA (Ret.), Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, USN (Ret.), and Marshal Carter; former NSA deputy directors Oliver Kirby and Major General John Morrison, USAF (Ret.); and former Ambassador Dwight Porter, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon in 1967;

5. That in attacking the USS *Liberty*, Israel committed acts of murder against American servicemen and an act of war against the United States;

6. That fearing conflict with Israel, the White House deliberately prevented the U.S. Navy from coming to the defense of the *Liberty* by recalling Sixth Fleet military rescue support while the ship was under attack; evidence of the recall of rescue aircraft is supported by statements of Captain Joe Tully, Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga*, and Rear Admiral Lawrence Geis, the Sixth Fleet carrier division commander, at the time of the attack; never before in American naval history has a rescue mission been cancelled when an American ship was under attack;

7. That although the *Liberty* was saved from almost certain destruction through the heroic efforts of the ship's Captain, William L. McGonagle (MOH), and his brave crew, surviving crewmembers were later threatened with "court-martial, imprisonment or worse" if they exposed the truth; and were abandoned by their own government;

8. That due to the influence of Israel's powerful supporters in the United States, the White House deliberately covered up the facts of this attack from the American people;

9. That due to continuing pressure by the pro-Israel lobby in the United States, this attack remains the only serious naval incident that has never been thoroughly investigated by Congress; to this day, no surviving crewmember has been permitted to officially and publicly testify about the attack;

10. That there has been an official cover-up without precedent in American naval history; the existence of such a cover-up is now supported by statements of Rear Admiral

Merlin Staring, USN (Ret.), former Judge Advocate General of the Navy; and Captain Ward Boston, USN, (Ret.), the chief counsel to the Navy's 1967 Court of Inquiry of the *Liberty* attack;

11. That the truth about Israel's attack and subsequent White House cover-up continues to be officially concealed from the American people to the present day and is a national disgrace;

12. That a danger to our national security exists whenever our elected officials are willing to subordinate American interests to those of any foreign nation, and specifically are unwilling to challenge Israel's interests when they conflict with American interests; this policy, evidenced by the failure to defend the USS *Liberty* and the subsequent official cover-up of the Israeli attack, endangers the safety of Americans and the security of the United States.

Whereupon, we, the undersigned, in order to fulfill our duty to the brave crew of the USS *Liberty* and to all Americans who are asked to serve in our Armed Forces, hereby call upon the Department of the Navy, the Congress of the United States and the American people to immediately take the following actions:

First, That a new Court of Inquiry be convened by the Department of the Navy, operating with Congressional oversight, to take public testimony from surviving crewmembers; and to thoroughly investigate the circumstances of the attack on the USS *Liberty*, with full cooperation from the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and the military intelligence services, and to determine Israel's possible motive in launching said attack on a U.S. naval vessel;

Second, That every appropriate committee of the Congress of the United States investigate the actions of the White House and Defense Department that prevented the rescue of the USS *Liberty*, thereafter threatened her surviving officers and men if they exposed the truth, and covered up the true circumstances of the attack from the American people; and

Third, That the eighth day of June of every year be proclaimed to be hereafter known as USS *Liberty* Remembrance Day, in order to commemorate the *Liberty's* heroic crew; and to educate the American people of the danger to our national security inherent in any passionate attachment of our elected officials for any foreign nation.

AFFIDAVIT OF CAPTAIN WARD BOSTON, USN, JAG (RET.), SENIOR COUNSEL TO THE U.S. NAVY COURT OF INQUIRY

For more than 30 years, I have remained silent on the topic of the USS *Liberty*. I am a military man and when orders come in from the Secretary of Defense and President of the United States, I follow them.

However, recent attempts to rewrite history compel me to share the truth.

In June of 1967, while serving as a Captain in the Judge Advocates General Department of the Navy, I was assigned as senior legal counsel for the Navy's Court of Inquiry into the brutal attack on the USS *Liberty*, which had occurred on June 8th. The late Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, president of the Court, and I were given only one week to gather evidence for the Navy's official investigation into the attack. Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., then Commander-in-chief, Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR), at his headquarters in London, had charged Admiral Kidd (in a letter dated June 10, 1967) to "inquire into all the pertinent facts and circumstances leading to and connected with the armed attack; damage resulting therefrom; and deaths of and injuries to Naval personnel." Despite the short amount of time we were given, we

gathered a vast amount of evidence, including hours of heartbreaking testimony from the young survivors.

The evidence was clear. Both Admiral Kidd and I believed with certainty that this attack, which killed 34 American sailors and injured 172 others, was a deliberate effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. I am certain that the Israeli pilots that undertook the attack, as well as their superiors who had ordered the attack, were aware that the ship was American.

I saw the flag, which had visibly identified the ship as American, riddled with bullet holes, and heard testimony that made it clear that the Israelis intended there be no survivors. Not only did the Israelis attack the ship with napalm, gunfire, and missiles, Israeli torpedo boats machine-gunned three lifeboats that had been launched in an attempt by the crew to save the most seriously wounded—a war crime.

I am outraged at the efforts of the apologists for Israel in this country to claim that this attack was a case of "mistaken identity." In particular, the recent publication of Jay Cristol's book, *The Liberty Incident*, twists the facts and misrepresents the views of those of us who investigated the attack. It is Cristol's insidious attempt to whitewash the facts that has pushed me to speak out.

I know from personal conversations I had with Admiral Kidd that President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered him to conclude that the attack was a case of "mistaken identity" despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Contrary to the misinformation presented by Cristol and others, it is important for the American people to know that it is clear that Israel is responsible for deliberately attacking an American ship and murdering American sailors, whose bereaved shipmates have lived with this egregious conclusion for many years.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USS "LIBERTY"

1. What happened to the USS *Liberty*? The USS *Liberty* was a virtually unarmed American Navy ship that was attacked by Israeli planes and torpedo boats on June 8, 1967.

2. What were the American casualties? 34 American sailors were killed and 172 injured that day, a casualty rate of 70%. This is the highest casualty rate ever inflicted upon a U.S. naval vessel that remained afloat after an attack.

3. What was Israel's explanation for the attack? Israel claimed the attack was "a case of mistaken identity"; that they didn't know it was an American ship.

4. Why would we question that explanation more than 30 years later? The ship's survivors were afraid to speak out in the early years because of threats of "court martial, prison or worse" if they did not remain silent. However, as time passed, they have stepped forward to say the attack was deliberate.

Recently, high government and military officials have suggested that not only was the attack deliberate, but that the US government covered up the incident. Today, an Independent Commission of Inquiry has found that Israel committed "an act of war" against the United States (see Findings of Independent Commission).

In addition, the Navy's chief attorney to the original 1967 military Court of Inquiry has issued a statement that orders to cover up the incident were issued by President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara (see Statement of Captain Ward Boston, USN, JAG (Ret.)).

5. Did Israel have reason to believe the USS *Liberty* was an Egyptian ship? Israel says its pilots and torpedo boat commanders

Continued next page

DOCUMENTS



FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY . . . (continued)

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confused the USS *Liberty* with the *El Quseir*, an Egyptian ship allegedly firing upon its forces in the Sinai. But there was no Egyptian naval bombardment that day; nor did the *El Quseir* (an unarmed 1920s-era horse carrier out of service in Alexandria) bear any resemblance to the *Liberty*.

6. Isn't it difficult to identify a ship if you're in an airplane? In 1967, the USS *Liberty* was the most sophisticated intelligence ship in the world, with dozens of large antennas, including a large moon-bounce "satellite-dish" mounted on a tall structure near the stern. It may have been one of the most easily identifiable ships of any navy in the world. With a displacement of 10,000 tons, it was four times the size of the antique Egyptian transport it is claimed to have resembled. Freshly painted, the *Liberty* carried large white identification numbers on its bow. Egyptian hull numbers are painted black.

7. Doesn't Israel say that the *Liberty* flew no flag? According to American survivors, a 5-by-8 foot American flag was hoisted early that morning and was flying all day until it was shot away by attacking aircraft. Within several minutes, it was replaced by the giant 7-by-13 foot holiday ensign, which flew for the duration of the attack.

8. Could Israel have thought the ship was in a war zone, acting suspiciously? According to surviving crewmembers, Israeli reconnaissance aircraft closely studied the *Liberty* over an eight-hour period prior to the attack, one flying within two hundred feet of the ship. At all times the *Liberty* was a clearly marked American ship in international waters, proceeding at a speed of only 5 knots.

9. What was the weather like the day of the attack? Weather reports confirm that it was a clear day with unlimited visibility. The Israeli reconnaissance planes could have seen the *Liberty's* crew sunbathing on the upper decks just before the attack. The flag was flying in a 12-knot breeze for most of the afternoon.

10. Doesn't Israel say they ended the attack the minute they saw someone hoist an American flag? The Israeli attack by combined air and naval forces spanned two hours—as long as the attack on Pearl Harbor. The air attack alone lasted approximately 25 minutes; consisting of more than 30 sorties by approximately 12 separate planes using napalm, cannon, and rockets which left 821 holes in the ship. Following the air attack, three Israeli motor torpedo boats torpedoed the ship, causing a 40' x 40' wide hole in her hull, and machine-gunning firefighters and stretcher-bearers attempting to save their ship and crew. More than 3,000 machine-gun bullet holes were later counted on the *Liberty's* hull. After the attack was thought to have ended, three life rafts were lowered into the water to rescue the most seriously wounded. The Israeli torpedo boats returned and machine-gunned these life rafts at close range. This was followed by the approach of two large Israeli Army assault helicopters filled with armed commandos carrying what appeared to be explosive satchels (they departed after hovering over the ship for several minutes, making no attempt to communicate).

11. Did the *Liberty* send out a distress signal when it was under attack? Throughout the air attack, the *Liberty's* radio operators found it difficult to transmit a distress signal because the attacking Israeli aircraft jammed all five of the *Liberty's* American, not Egyptian, emergency radio channels. However, a call for help did reach the U.S. Navy command in the Mediterranean.

12. What was the American response time? Although American carrier-based air support was only 40 minutes away, help did not reach the USS *Liberty* for seventeen hours. Navy

fighters were launched from the aircraft carriers *America* and *Saratoga* while the *Liberty* was under attack. However, they were quickly recalled by the White House. This is the only instance in American naval history where a rescue mission was cancelled when an American ship was under attack.

13. Why would Israel have deliberately attacked an American ship? Israel's motive for launching the attack has never been determined with certainty. This is why an impartial investigation is critical. One hypothesis is that Israel intended to sink the ship (with no survivors) and blame Egypt because this might have brought the United States into the 1967 war. Another hypothesis is that the *Liberty* was gathering intelligence about activities that Israel did not want revealed. Examples might include the massacre of Egyptian prisoners of war that was then occurring in the Sinai, as well as Israel's impending invasion of Syria.

14. Has the incident been investigated in the past? Some people say that there have been "thirteen official investigations" all concluding the attack was a case of mistaken identity. Several were conducted by Israel. Upon examination, however, every one is based upon the conclusions of the original 1967 U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry, which accepted the Israeli version, but which has been exposed and discredited by its chief attorney as a cover-up.

15. Did the surviving crewmembers testify in the other investigations? In not one of these "investigations" were any of the *Liberty's* surviving crewmembers permitted to publicly testify.

16. Why would the White House prevent the rescue of an American ship? This is, perhaps, the most disturbing question arising out of Israel's attack. It is why there needs to be a thorough investigation of the actions taken by the White House and the Secretary of Defense. Why did they order the recall of the planes that had been sent to rescue the *Liberty*? Why did they order that the survivors be silenced and the true facts be withheld from the American people?

17. What kind of investigation are you calling for? We are calling for a new Court of Inquiry by the Department of the Navy, with congressional oversight, to take public testimony from surviving crewmembers and otherwise thoroughly examine the circumstances of the attack.

18. Why are you calling for a naval—and not a congressional—investigation? We believe this would remove the inquiry from the political pressures traditionally exerted by special interest groups upon individual congressional offices. Fundraising and election pressures have prevented an honest investigation from being conducted for the past 36 years.

19. Why is this significant for the American people 36 years later? We have a duty to the crew of the USS *Liberty*, while the survivors are still alive to testify, and while the perpetrators can be brought to justice. Furthermore, any policies that paralyze our elected leadership to the extent they become unable or unwilling to protect Americans and American interests, endangers not only the safety of all Americans but also the national security of the United States.

20. Doesn't America have a special relationship with Israel? No nation or people should be above the law; nor should American interests be subordinated to the interests of any foreign nation. Those Israelis responsible for ordering the attack and the resulting murder of American sailors must be held accountable for their actions.

THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff—The distin-

guished naval career of Admiral Thomas H. Moorer spanned 41 years. Following his Graduation from the Naval Academy in 1933, he became a Navy pilot, a war hero, and a ship's captain. On December 7, 1941, as a naval aviator, Lieutenant Moorer was one of the first pilots off the ground following the attack on Pearl Harbor. A hero of the Battle of Midway, his numerous decorations for valor during WWII include the Silver Star and Purple Heart. In 1957, Moorer was promoted to the rank of Admiral. In 1965, he broke new ground, becoming the only American admiral to have ever commanded both our Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. He later served as Chief of Naval Operations, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The F-14 Tomcat, the Navy's main fighter for many years, was named for Admiral Moorer. Since his retirement in 1974, Admiral Moorer has served on the boards of many American corporations, and is a tireless advocate for American veterans. Working with Admiral Arleigh Burke (CNO), Admiral Moorer was instrumental in establishing the United States Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. He is currently Chairman of the Liberty Alliance, an organization dedicated to obtaining an honest investigation of Israel's attack on the USS *Liberty* and the official cover-up that followed.

General of Marines Raymond G. Davis (MOH), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps—General Davis, one of America's most decorated heroes, passed away on September 3, 2003. As a combat veteran of three wars and a dedicated member of the Marine Corps for 34 years, General Davis received the Congressional Medal of Honor—the nation's highest award for valor—as well as the Navy Cross, two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, two Legion of Merit awards, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. General Davis was renowned for his exploits in the Pacific during WWII, as a battalion and regimental commander during the Korean War, and as Commanding General of the 3rd Marine Division in Viet Nam. Attaining four-star rank in 1971, Davis served as Assistant Commandant of the Corps before retiring in 1972. A strong proponent of veterans' issues, General Davis served as chairman of the advisory board to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 1995. Prior to his death, General Davis served as Vice Chairman of the Liberty Alliance and was a principal member of the Commission of Inquiry into the cover-up of the attack on the USS *Liberty*.

Rear Admiral Merlin Staring, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy—Merlin Staring's distinguished naval career, which spanned nearly 25 years, began as an ensign in December 1941. Among his numerous decorations, Admiral Staring was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. In June of 1967, Staring served as Staff Legal Officer to Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., the Commander-in-chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CINCSNAVEUR) in London, which encompassed the Mediterranean, and was assigned to review the record of the Navy Court of Inquiry's investigation into the Israeli attack on the USS *Liberty*. Admiral Staring later served as the Navy's legal advisor to Secretaries of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius and John H. Chafee. Attaining the rank of Rear Admiral in 1972, he was appointed Judge Advocate General of the Navy—the Navy's chief attorney—a position he held through 1975. Currently, Admiral Staring is Treasurer and a director of the Liberty Alliance.

Ambassador James Akins, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia—James Akins served his country for 25 years as a distinguished member of the diplomatic corps. From 1963-1966, he served as an attache at

the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and later as the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during the Nixon administration. An internationally respected expert on the Middle East and energy issues, Ambassador Akins has been an active and outspoken proponent for a just resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is a respected and highly sought speaker and analyst on the Middle East peace process as well as Arab politics in general. Author *Jeans-Jacques Servan Schreiber* called Ambassador Akins "the westerner who knows the most about the Middle East and has the closest relationship of trust with its leaders." Ambassador Akins is a director of the Liberty Alliance.

RAYMOND G. DAVIS



Capt. J. M. Tully, Jr. (USN, Ret.) letter to James M. Ennes, Jr. | 6 May 1981

Captain Tully was the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. *Saratoga* when the U.S.S. *Liberty* was attacked on June 8, 1967. In his two-page letter to Ennes,

Tully describes and remarks about his account of the events of that day.

Pdf: <http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/Tully%20Account.pdf>



DOCUMENTS

Memorandum for Senator Warner — from Merlin H. Staring, Rear Admiral, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Ret. | 2 Sept. 2005

<http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/Staring%20Package.pdf> This memo also includes the following:

- Feb. 24, 2006 letter to Moe Shafter (Blazer Associates, Inc) — from J. E. Baguette, Deputy Asst. JAG (International and Operational Law);
- Jan. 11, 2006 letter to Chairman John Warner, U.S. Senate — from H.H. Dronberger, Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Asst. JAG (Civil Law)
- Oct. 31, 2006 letter to Rep. Thomas Reynolds (R-New York) — from J. E. Baguette, Deputy Director, Office of the JAG
- Mar. 16, 2005 letter to Rep. Rob Simons (R-Conn.), House of Representatives — from Jane G. Dalton, Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Asst. JAG
- May 15, 2006 letter to Rear Admiral Clarence A. Hill, Jr. and Rear Admiral Merlin H. Staring, U.S.S. Liberty Alliance — from Richard B. Jackson, Special Assistant to the JAG for Law of War Matters;
- Sept. 22, 2005 letter to RADM Clarence A. Hill, Jr., USN, ret. — from Patrick J. Neher, Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Deputy Assistant JAG;
- June 18, 1967 declassified document regarding “Court of Inquiry to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the armed attack on USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) on 8 June 1967”; signed by John S. McCain, Jr. [Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe]
- July 27, 2005 letter to The Honorable Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy — from Liberty Alliance, signed by Merlin H. Staring, Rear Admiral, JAGC, USN, Ret. and Clarence A. (Mark) Hill, Rear Admiral, USN, Ret.
- Apr. 20, 2006 letter to The Honorable Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army — from Liberty Alliance, signed by Merlin H. Staring, Rear Admiral, JAGC, USN, Ret. and Clarence A. (Mark) Hill, Rear Admiral, USN, Ret.
- July 22, 2006 letter to Senator John Warner (R-Virginia), Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate — from U.S.S. Liberty Alliance, signed by Merlin H. Staring, Rear Admiral, JAGC, USN, Ret. and Clarence A. (Mark) Hill, Rear Admiral, USN, Ret.
- Sept. 8, 2006 letter to Michael Trepp (Seattle, Washington) — from Senator John McCain (R-Arizona).
- Sept. 22, 2005 letter to RADM Clarence A. Hill, Jr. USN, Ret. — from Patrick J. Neher, Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Deputy Assistant JAG
- Feb. 22, 2006 letter to RADM M. H. Staring, JAGC, USN, Ret. — from John Warner (R-Virginia), Chairman, U.S. Senate Cmte. on Armed Services

Declaration of James Ronald Gotcher, III | 2 Sept. 2003 <http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/gotcher.pdf>

Excerpts:

3. On June 8, 1967, I was a Sergeant in the United States Air Force, assigned to the 6924th Security Squadron, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam.
4. During the early evening (local time) of June 8, 1967 we received a CRITIC message, informing us that USS Liberty was under attack by Israeli aircraft. Shortly thereafter, we began receiving rough translations of the Israeli air to air and air to ground communications.
5. The next day, we received the final translations of the intercepts. There will virtually no difference between the two versions.
6. While I have a clear recollection of reading transcripts of conversations between pilots and controllers, I do not recall ever reading anything similar to the transcripts recently released by the National Security Agency concerning Israeli helicopter pilots.
7. It was clear from the explicit statements made by both the aircraft crews and the controllers that the aircraft were flying a planned mission to find and sink USS Liberty.
8. My understanding of what I read led me to conclude that the Israeli pilots were making every effort possible to sink USS Liberty and were very frustrated by their inability to do so.
9. Approximately ten days to two weeks later, we received an internal NSA report, summarizing the Agency’s findings. The report stated, in no uncertain terms, that the attack was planned in advance and deliberately executed. The mission was to sink USS Liberty.

“A Juridical Examination of the Israeli Attack on the USS Liberty”

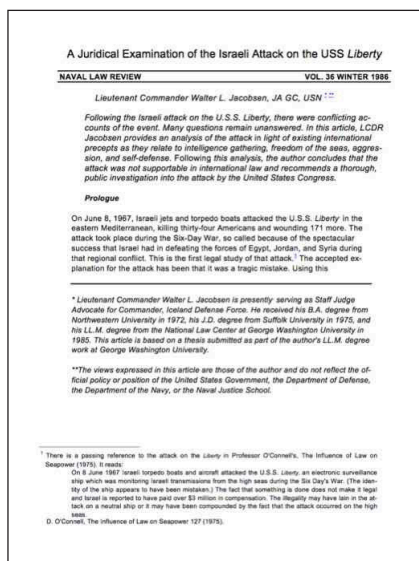
Walter L. Jacobsen, LCDR, JAGC, USN | *Naval Law Review*, Vol. 36, Winter 1986

<http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/jacobsen.pdf>

Excerpt: “Following the Israeli attack on the U.S.S. Liberty, there were conflicting accounts of the event. Many questions remain unanswered. In this article, LCDR Jacobsen provides an analysis of the attack in light of existing international precepts as they relate to intelligence gathering, freedom of the seas, aggression, and self-defense. Following this analysis, the author concludes that the attack was not supportable in international law and recommends a thorough, public investigation into the attack by the United States Congress.”

U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry Report on the USS Liberty | June 1967

703 pg. pdf: <http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/USS%20Liberty%20COI%20Report.pdf>

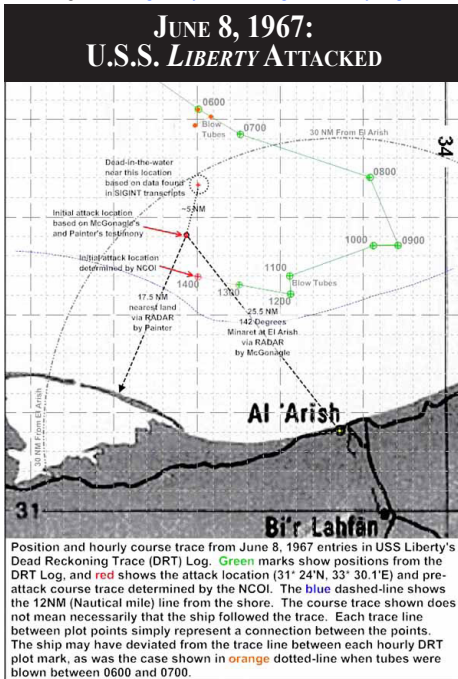


For more documents: <http://www.usslibertyveterans.org/files/docs.pdf>
and USS Liberty Document Center <http://www.usslibertydocumentcenter.org>

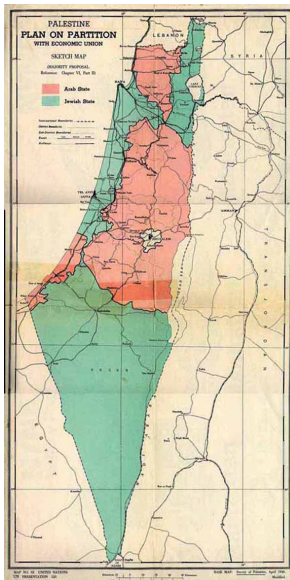
MAPS

The Six-Day War “was the third of the Arab-Israeli wars. Israel’s decisive victory included the capture of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights; the status of these territories subsequently became a major point of contention in the Arab-Israeli conflict.” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War>)

Below map is from <http://navy.memorieshop.com/Liberty/map.html>



PALESTINE / ISRAEL – 1947, 1949, AND 1967+



Palestine, Plan on Partition with Economic Union (Map No. 82, UN Presentation 520, Sept. 1947; base map: *Survey of Palestine*, Apr. 1946).

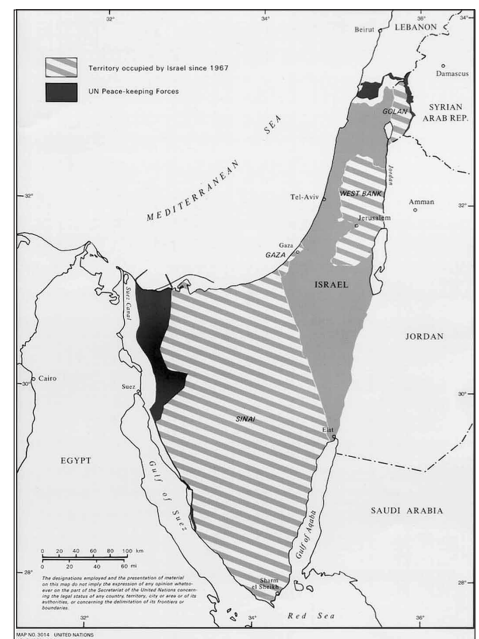


UN Partition Plan - 1947 and U.N. Armistice Lines - 1949 (Map No. 3067 Rev. 1, U.N., April 1983).

UNSCOP (The United Nations Special Commission on Palestine) proposed Palestinian land be divided into an Arab state and a Jewish state — as shown in the map (far left) titled *Palestine, Plan on Partition with Economic Union*. Two months later, changes were made (Nov. 1947) — reflected in the *U.N. Partition Plan - 1947* (left). In 1949, more changes were made and Palestinian areas were further reduced as seen in the *U.N. Armistice Lines - 1949*.

Israel’s territorial occupation increased after the Six-Day War — see map at right (Map No. 3014, U.N., Nov. 1978). Years later in April 1982, Israel completed its withdraw from Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, and the area was returned to Egypt. At that time, **“Defense Minister Ariel Sharon pledged that it would be Israel’s final territorial concession for peace, and he promised a new drive to expand Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.”** wrote David K. Shipler, (Special to the *New York Times*, 4/26/82).

The West Bank and Gaza Strip — the new land targets for Israel’s settlement expansion — belonged to Palestine.





WEBSITES

USS Liberty Veterans Association: <http://usslibertyveterans.org>

USS Liberty Document Center <http://www.usslibertydocumentcenter.org>

“This USS LIBERTY Document Center has opened in 2013, forty-six years after the attack upon the United States Ship LIBERTY. The document center has been formed by the Board of Directors of the USS LIBERTY Alliance and the Board of Directors of the USS LIBERTY Veterans Association to permit future scholars and other interested parties to read, examine, and analyze a set of important documents that have never been published in the public media until now. These documents offer unique perspectives on the events leading up to the attack on LIBERTY, the attack itself, the aftermath, and the continuing issues associated with interpreting the events of June 1967.”

USS Liberty <http://www.gtr5.com> or www.USSLiberty.com More info: <http://www.ussliberty.org/links.htm>

Governmental, Agency, and Other Reports <http://www.gtr5.com/Reports.htm>

“There have been a number of reports relating to USS Liberty. Most of them are nothing more than summaries of materials gathered by others, not investigations where testimony and other evidence was presented. Still there are some who try to pass these summaries off as “investigations that exonerate Israel.” On the contrary, where any opinion is expressed at all, it usually tends to incriminate Israel.”

If Americans Knew webpage for **The USS Liberty** http://www.ifamericansknew.org/us_ints/ussliberty.html

Arlington National Cemetery webpage for “Casualties of the USS Liberty”

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Notable-Graves/Casualties-of-War-and-Honorary-War-Veterans/USS-Liberty>

Arlingtoncemetery.net webpage for “Personnel Killed on the USS Liberty (AGTR-5), June 8, 1967” <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/liberty.htm>

CIA — Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room

Search results for “U.S.S. Liberty” <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/%22U.S.S.%20Liberty%22>

Search results for “USS Liberty” <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/USS%20Liberty>

Cryptome — Links to declassified NSA documents – re: USS Liberty <http://cryptome.info/0001/nsa-liberty.htm>

Hullnumber.com — AGTR-5 photo http://www.hullnumber.com/p_photos/AGTR-5.image.1001094.jpg

Military Personnel Records, National Archives at St. Louis <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel>

Military Times Hall of Valor (searchable database) <http://valor.militarytimes.com/about.php>

Naval History and Heritage Command <https://www.history.navy.mil>

Search results for “AGTR-5” <https://www.history.navy.mil/search.html?q=AGTR-5>

Search results for “USS Liberty”: <https://www.history.navy.mil/search.html?q=%22USS+Liberty%22>

NavSource Online: Service Ship Photo Archive <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/60/6005.htm>

NSA | CSS Digital Media Center -- USS Liberty Image Gallery

<https://www.nsa.gov/resources/everyone/digital-media-center/image-galleries/historical/uss-liberty/index.shtml>

CONTACT THE U.S. CONGRESS

Q: What is the difference between a senator and congressman?

Quick Answer: A senator is a congressman, a congressman isn't necessarily a senator. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and both senators and representatives of the House are referred to as congressmen. A senator can always be referred to as a congressman, but a congressman is not necessarily a senator in the event they are a representative.

Source: <https://www.reference.com/government-politics/difference-between-senator-congressman-6a9d6275d1e482ae>

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Find Your Representative — “This service will assist you by matching your ZIP code to your congressional district, with links to your member’s website and contact page.”

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Directory of Representatives — View listings by “State and District” or by “Last Name”

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

UNITED STATES SENATE

Find your Senator https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/senators_cfm.cfm?State=AZ#

115th Congress – Suite and Telephone List (as of 3/7/17)

https://www.senate.gov/general/resources/pdf/senators_phone_list.pdf



DOCUMENTARIES

A fundraising effort is underway to produce an independent full-length feature film for the USS Liberty Film project:

Erasing the Liberty

<http://usslibertymovie.com>

Watch Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW4m6yuKsFk>



“USS Liberty survivor’s new book soon to be a full-length feature film” — As 50th anniversary approaches, all eyes are on film project | Jim W. Dean | *Veterans Today* | 10/4/16
<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2016/10/04/uss-liberty-survivors-new-book-soon-to-be-a-full-length-feature-film/>



***The Day Israel Attacked America* | 10/30/14**

Directed by British filmmaker Richard Belfield | Special Program. *Aljazeera*

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2014/10/day-israel-attacked-america-20141028144946266462.html>

[Note: Scroll down the webpage and read “Filmmaker’s View” — Richard Belfield tells how he learned “about the attack on the USS Liberty in 1980 over dinner with a former analyst from the National Security Agency (NSA) in Washington DC.”]



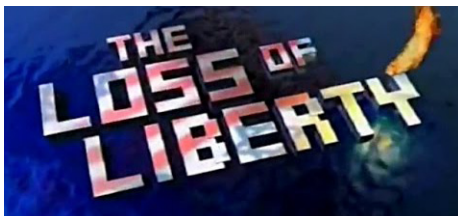
USS Liberty: Justice for the Liberty | Break of Dawn Productions | 2011

Written/produced/edited by Eric Calhoun and Matt Hodges

Trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TP_l2FyMKuk

DVD: <https://usslibertyveterans.org/store.html>

<https://youtu.be/799Y63EzKik>



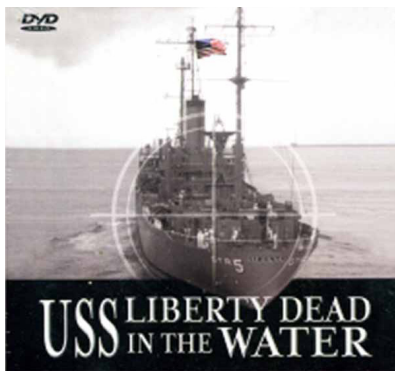
***The Loss Of Liberty* | Written/directed by Tito Howard | 2002**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODtKvrAcD-A>

<https://archive.org/details/LossOfLiberty-TheStoryOfTheUssLiberty>

<http://www.brasschecktv.com/videos/war-crimes-1/loss-of-liberty.html>

DVD: https://www.amazon.com/available-dvd-LOSS-LIBERTY-documentary/forum/Fx3OJ5RKBM0IDA0/TxR2A379W1Q9VD/1/ref=cm_cd_fp_ef_tft_tp?encoding=UTF8&asin=B000A4WXPG



***USS Liberty: Dead In The Water* | BBC Documentary | 2002**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjOH1XMAwZA>

VHS or DVD: <http://www.ussliberty.org/ditw.htm>

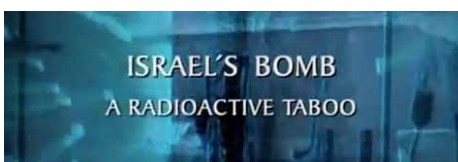
<https://electronicintifada.net/content/uss-liberty-dead-water-now-available-vhs-and-dvd/4228>

***USS Liberty Survivors: Our Story* | Produced/directed by Patrick King | 1989**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1615119/>

“[A]n original video relating the first person accounts of the events of June 8, 1967 as experienced by the officers and men of the USS Liberty.”

DVD: <http://ihffilm.com/dvd035.html>



Israel’s Bomb: A Radioactive Taboo

Directed by German documentary filmmaker Dirk Pohlmann | 2012

This film has a segment on the USS *Liberty* — go to time stamp 34:30 to 40:00

<https://www.amazon.com/Israels-Bomb-Radioactive-Dirk-Pohlmann/dp/B01GGSBDQO>

Also see: <https://archive.org/details/IsraelsBombARadioactiveTaboo>

Historical film footage: USS Liberty Into Malta Drydock After Attack By Israel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pISelBBVjGM>



ARTICLES

“Liberty Survivors Say US Still Downplays Israel’s Attack on Ship” | Bryant Jordan | *Military.com* | 6/9/16

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/06/09/liberty-survivors-say-us-still-downplays-israels-attack-on-ship.html>

Excerpt: “Transcripts of radio communications between Israeli pilots and their controllers indicate the attackers identified the ship as American yet continued the assault. . . .”

“49 Years Ago The US Covered Up An Israeli False Flag Attack That Killed 34 Americans, Wounded 173”

For decades, the US government threatened the survivors with jail if they spoke about it and kept the truth from the public.

Jay Symopoulos | *The Free Thought Project* | 6/9/16

<http://www.mintpressnews.com/49-years-ago-us-covered-israeli-false-flag-attack-killed-34-americans-wounded-173/217084/>

The Israeli Attack on the USS Liberty | Dr. Paul Craig Roberts | Institute for Political Economy | 7/26/16

<http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2016/07/26/the-israeli-attack-on-the-uss-liberty-paul-craig-roberts/>

Excerpt from the Introduction: For a number of years Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chief of Naval Operations and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was my colleague at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Tom, after whom the F-14 Tomcat fighter is named, expressed to me his concern that US politics and foreign policy was in the clutches of Israel and that America was being led into war with the Arab Middle East. Admiral Moorer and the State Department and Pentagon at that time did not think that war with the Arab countries served the interests of the United States. However, Admiral Moorer thought that the war could not be avoided because of the hold Israel has over the US government.

What convinced him of this was Washington’s coverup of the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty . . . Tom was disheartened that **Admiral John S. McCain Jr.**, the father of the current US senator, for career reasons had cooperated with the coverup. Tom worried that careerism had destroyed the integrity of the US military.

Excerpt: Admiral John S. McCain Jr., the father of the current US senator, ordered Admiral Isaac C. Kidd and Captain Ward Boston to hold a court of inquiry and to complete the investigation in only one week. In a signed affidavit Captain Boston said President Johnson ordered a cover-up and that he and Admiral Kidd were prevented from doing a real investigation. Liberty survivors were ordered never to speak to anyone about the event. Their silence was finally broken 12 years later when Lt. Commander James M. Ennes published his book, *Assault on the Liberty*.

“The United States Navy most decorated ship (in a single action)” | Miko Peled | *American Herald Tribune* | 6/8/16

Miko Peled is the author of *The General’s Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine* (Just World Books, 2012; reprinted 2013, 2016).

Part 1: **The attack on the USS Liberty, forty-eight years later** <http://ahtribune.com/history/959-uss-liberty-part-1.html>

Part 2: **The day Israel attacked America** <http://ahtribune.com/human-rights/964-uss-liberty-part-2.html>

“No ‘Explanation’ Disproves Israel’s Guilt in 1967 Attack on USS Liberty” | Reverdy S. Fishel | *WRMEA* | June/July 2016, pp. 28-29

<http://www.wrmea.org/2016-june/july/no-explanation-disproves-israels-guilt-in-1967-attack-on-uss-liberty.html>

Excerpt: Why did Israel attack the Liberty? [James] Ennes provides the most plausible explanation: On the day of the attack, Israel was preparing to attack and grab Syria’s Golan Heights, and did not want the U.S. to know that Israel was the aggressor and blow the whistle on them—possibly forcing Israel to relinquish its ill-gotten gains. Consider the timeline: On June 8, Israel was preparing to invade, the Liberty is put out of action, and Israel attacks Syria the next day.

Since Ennes’ book appeared, another motive has surfaced: **At the very time the Liberty was attacked, Israeli forces were massacring hundreds of Egyptian prisoners at El Arish—very near the Liberty’s position.**

“Michigan Post Remembers USS Liberty” | Janie Blankenship | *VFW Magazine* | Aug. 2015

<http://digitaledition.qwinc.com/article/Michigan+Post+Remembers+USS+Liberty/2048929/0/article.html>

“Still Waiting for USS Liberty’s Truth” | Ray McGovern | *Consortium News* | 7/4/15

“Exclusive: During the Six-Day War in 1967, Israeli warplanes and warships tried to sink the USS Liberty, killing 34 of the spy ship’s crew. Afterwards, U.S. and Israeli officials excused the attack as an unfortunate mistake and covered up evidence of willful murder, as ex-CIA analyst Ray McGovern explains.” <https://consortiumnews.com/2015/07/04/still-waiting-for-uss-libertys-truth/>

Twenty Years of USS Liberty Reporting in *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* | Archive of *WRMEA* articles

List and links to of a couple hundred writings related to the USS Liberty. <http://www.ussliberty.org/wrmeaarchive.htm>

“Behind the USS Liberty Cover-up” | Maidhc Cathail | *Consortium News* | 11/12/14

“For decades, Israel has exercised strong influence over U.S. policies in the Mideast via its highly effective Washington lobby, but that power was tested in 1967 when Israeli warplanes strafed the USS Liberty killing 34 American crewmen, an incident revisited in a new documentary reviewed by Maidhc Cathail.” <https://consortiumnews.com/2014/11/12/behind-the-uss-liberty-cover-up/>



ARTICLES

“New Evidence Proves Israel Attacked USS Liberty With Orders To Kill 294 Americans” | Aaron Nelson | *Mint Press News* | 11/12/14

“Fresh evidence presented in an exclusive Al Jazeera investigation into the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty that killed 34 Americans proves the incident was not a mistake” <http://www.mintpressnews.com/new-evidence-proves-israel-attacked-uss-liberty-orders-kill-294-americans/198757/>

“A USS Liberty’s Hero’s Passing” | Ray McGovern | *Consortium News* | 8/17/14

<https://consortiumnews.com/2014/08/17/a-uss-libertys-heros-passing/>

Excerpt: Terry Halbardier, who as a 23-year old seaman in 1967 thwarted Israeli attempts to sink the USS Liberty, died on Aug. 11 in Visalia, California. It took the U.S. government 42 years after the attack to recognize Halbardier’s heroism by awarding him the Silver Star, a delay explained by Washington’s determination to downplay Israeli responsibility for the 34 Americans killed and the 174 wounded.

Excerpt: The award of the Silver Star to Terry Halbardier marked a significant step in the direction of truth telling. Halbardier said he accepted his Silver Star on behalf of the entire 294-man crew. He and fellow survivor Don Pageler expressed particular satisfaction at the wording of the citation, which stated explicitly — with none of the usual fudging — the identity of the attackers: “The USS Liberty was attacked by Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats in the East Mediterranean Sea.”

“Liberty Incident Author Jay Cristol Still Won’t Let Survivors Tell Their Story” | Bryant Jordan | *WRMEA* | June/July 2014, pgs 20-21

<http://www.wrmea.org/2014-june-july/liberty-incident-author-jay-cristol-still-wont-let-survivors-tell-their-story.html>

“Leaving the USS Liberty Crew Behind” | Ray McGovern | *Consortium News* | 6/8/14

“Justifying the swap of Taliban prisoners for Sgt. Bergdahl, President Obama cited a principle of never leaving U.S. soldiers behind, but that rule was violated in the shabby treatment of the USS Liberty crew, attacked 47 years ago by Israeli warplanes, writes ex-CIA analyst Ray McGovern.”

<https://consortiumnews.com/2014/06/08/leaving-the-uss-liberty-crew-behind/>

Excerpt: Here, for example, is the text of an intercepted Israeli conversation, just one of many pieces of hard, unambiguous evidence that the Israeli attack was not a mistake:

Israeli pilot to ground control: “This is an American ship. Do you still want us to attack?”

Ground control: “Yes, follow orders.” ...

Israeli pilot: “But, sir, it’s an American ship I can see the flag!”

Ground control: “Never mind; hit it!”

The Israelis would have been able to glory in reporting “mission accomplished, ship sunk, all crew killed” save for the bravery and surefootedness of then-23 year-old Navy seaman Terry Halbardier, whose actions spelled the difference between the murder of 34 of the crew and the intended massacre of all 294.

“The USS Liberty, Israel & President Johnson’s Order to Destroy the USS Liberty”

Judy Morris | *Economic Policy Journal* | 1/30/13

<http://www.economicpolicyjournal.com/2013/01/the-uss-liberty-israel-president.html>

“Israel’s Attack on USS Liberty – The Full Story” | Alan Hart | *Veterans Today* | 6/7/12

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2012/06/07/alan-hart-israels-attack-on-the-uss-liberty-the-full-story/>

“USS LIBERTY and Acts of Congress | Eileen Fleming | *Veterans Today* | 6/2/11

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2011/06/02/uss-liberty-and-acts-of-congress/>

“Sinking Liberty” | Phil Giraldi* | *The American Conservative* | 3/17/11

Who will write the final chapter on Israel’s 1967 confrontation with the U.S. Navy?

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/the-uss-libertys-final-chapter/>

*Phil Giraldi is a former CIA Case Officer and Army Intelligence Officer who spent twenty years overseas in Europe and the Middle East working terrorism cases....”

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/author/philip-giraldi/>

“Sinking USS Liberty” – New Findings | Phil Giraldi; Alison Weir (Foreword) | Mar. 2011

“It’s time to open the windows and introduce a breath of fresh air. Lyndon B. Johnson is gone and so is his Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, both of whom left the USS Liberty to its fate. But there are many survivors who are still looking for answers. It is time to provide what they need and give them peace.” <http://mycatbirdseat.com/2011/03/sinking-uss-liberty-new-findings/>

What’s wrong with this picture?

“It took 13 years of haggling before both sides [Israel & U.S.A.] finally agreed a compensation deal for the [U.S.S. Liberty] ship. By 1980, the bill plus interest was just over \$17 million dollars — Israel offered 6 [million]. The Americans accepted, then sold the Liberty for \$100,000 scrap.” “The settlement for the victims was quicker, but many are still unhappy with it today.” ... “The American government came up with a formula for the Israeli’s to compensate the widows and children for their loss. This included a payment for shock and mental anguish. The widows got \$25,000 with \$10,000 for each of their children over five. An American government lawyer doubted that children under five could sufficiently comprehend the event to suffer shock and grief. The U.S. proposed that they [children under five] should therefore receive nothing — an offer the Israelis accepted.”

Source: *The Day Israel Attacked America*, time stamp: 46:36 to 48:03
<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2014/10/day-israel-attacked-america-20141028144946266462.html>

“...the government of Israel ... offered to settle the outstanding \$40-million damage claims for \$6-million — an amount equal to one dollar for each Jewish victim of the Holocaust.” ... “Israel paid \$6-million in three annual installments of \$2-million each. Secretary of State Dean Rusk said later that he considered the payments meaningless, as Congress merely increased the annual Israeli allotment by that amount.”

Source: “Adlai Stevenson supported USS Liberty”,
USS Liberty website <http://www.ussliberty.org/adlai.htm>

On September 14, 2016, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary announced: “Under the new MOU with Israel, the Obama Administration has made the largest single pledge of military assistance in U.S. history . . .” * Israel will receive \$38 billion U.S. taxpayer dollars for military aid over the next decade.

*Source: “FACT SHEET: Memorandum of Understanding Reached with Israel,” The White House Office of the Press Secretary, 9/14/16
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/14/fact-sheet-memorandum-understanding-reached-israel>



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“USS Liberty: Government Betrayal and Cover-up Finally Exposed” | Dr. Paul Craig Roberts | *Global Research* | 2008

“This article...is based entirely on documented sources and on interviews with the survivors....It is a “must read” for those concerned about an attack on America....” <http://www.globalresearch.ca/uss-liberty-government-betrayal-and-cover-up-finally-exposed/25186>

“New revelations in attack on American spy ship” | John Crewdson | *Chicago Tribune*, Web Edition | 10/2/07

Veterans, documents suggest U.S., Israel didn't tell full story of deadly '67 incident

http://www.chicagotribune.com/chi-liberty_tuesoct02-story.html also posted at <http://www.ussliberty.com/pdf/tribunebooklet.pdf>

Excerpt: Bryce Lockwood, Marine staff sergeant, Russian-language expert, recipient of the Silver Star for heroism, ordained Baptist minister, is shouting into the phone.

“I’m angry! I’m seething with anger! Forty years, and I’m seething with anger!”

Lockwood was aboard the USS Liberty, a super-secret spy ship on station in the eastern Mediterranean, when four Israeli fighter jets flew out of the afternoon sun to strafe and bomb the virtually defenseless vessel on June 8, 1967, the fourth day of what would become known as the Six-Day War.

For Lockwood and many other survivors, the anger is mixed with incredulity: that Israel would attack an important ally, then attribute the attack to a case of mistaken identity by Israeli pilots who had confused the U.S. Navy’s most distinctive ship with an Egyptian horse-cavalry transport that was half its size and had a dissimilar profile. And they’re also incredulous that, for years, their own government would reject their calls for a thorough investigation.

“In Awesome Peril” — Heroism in Defense of the USS Liberty | Richard K. Kolb | *VFW* | June/July 2007

http://www.ussliberty.com/pdf/vfw_ussliberty.pdf

“Telegrams cast doubt on Liberty report” | Bryant Jordan | *Navy Times* | June 2007

1967 attack found to be accident, but survivors push for full investigation <http://www.ussliberty.org/navytimes607.htm>

Excerpt: In each of 25 telegrams seen by *Navy Times*, the Navy was calling the attack an accident well before its court of inquiry ever convened. The telegrams are dated as early as June 9 some four days before the official board heard from a single Liberty witness and June 13, two days before the board finished its report.

In the telegrams, housed in Navy personnel files at the National Archives facility in College Park, Md., the Navy states that the deaths occurred “when the USS Liberty was accidentally attacked by Israeli forces.”

Reports of Casualty, known as DD 1300 forms, acquired on six Liberty crewmen also call the attack accidental or mistaken, and categorize the deaths as “non-battle.”

Three of the six are dated before the board of inquiry reached its findings on June 15, and three are dated afterward.

“USS Liberty and the NSA: One Deceit Too Many?” | Andrew M. Niacin | *WRMEA* | May/June 2006

<http://www.wrmea.org/2006-may-june/uss-liberty-and-the-nsa-one-deceit-too-many.html>

“Attack on the Liberty — Lifting the ‘fog of war’” | David C. Walsh | *San Diego Union-Tribune* | 3/28/04

The damaged U.S. intelligence ship Liberty arrived in Malta. An Israeli torpedo blew a 40-foot hole in the Liberty's hull.

http://legacy.sandiegouniontribune.com/uniontrib/20040328/news_mz1e29libert.html

Excerpt: Never before or since, according to survivors, has a Navy vessel come under such concerted “friendless” fire, with officialdom’s reaction being anything less than outrage. Calls for punishment in like circumstances do seem invariably quick and clarion. . . .

This failure by any administration to probe the motive for the tragedy is wrenching for all who experienced the horror of the attack, cryptologic technicians and seamen alike. As Dr. Richard Kiepfer, the ship’s overwhelmed physician, has written, “Never before in the history of the United States Navy has a Navy Board of Inquiry ignored the testimony of American military eyewitnesses and taken, on faith, the word of their attackers.” A harsh judgment.

Kiepfer was referring to a perfunctory hearing convened barely a week following the attack, memorable to survivors mainly for its frequent rejection of testimony and evidence that tended to implicate Israel in a deliberate attack. Shockingly, the court’s chief legal counsel, Capt. Ward Boston, in 2002 told *Navy Times* the naval court was, in fact, a politicized sham. Its conclusions, he declared, had been preordained to exonerate Israel.

“Commission of Inquiry reveals US-Israeli cover-up of U.S.S. Liberty attack” | Sarah Weir | *The Electronic Intifada* | 10/25/03

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/commission-inquiry-reveals-us-israeli-cover-uss-liberty-attack/4843>

Excerpt: 22 October 2003 — A new report released on Capitol Hill today by former officials from the highest level of the American military and government reveals that Israel “committed acts of murder against American serviceman and an act of war against the United States” when it deliberately attacked the American Navy Ship USS Liberty in 1967, killing 34 and wounding 172 American crewmembers. Israel had alleged that the two-hour attack with napalm, missiles, and torpedoes was a mistake.



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“Ex-Navy Official: 1967 Israeli Attack on U.S. Ship Was Deliberate” | *Associated Press* | 10/23/03

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/2003/10/23/ex-navy-official-167-israeli-attack-on-us-ship-was-deliberate.html>

Excerpt: WASHINGTON – A former Navy attorney who helped lead the military investigation of the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty that killed 34 American servicemen says former President Lyndon Johnson and his defense secretary, Robert McNamara, ordered that the inquiry conclude the incident was an accident.

In a signed affidavit released at a Capitol Hill news conference, retired Capt. Ward Boston said Johnson and McNamara told those heading the Navy’s inquiry to “conclude that the attack was a case of ‘mistaken identity’ despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.”

Boston was senior legal counsel to the Navy’s original 1967 review of the attack. He said in the sworn statement that he stayed silent for years because he’s a military man, and “when orders come ... I follow them.”

He said he felt compelled to “share the truth” following the publication of a recent book, “The Liberty Incident,” which concluded the attack was unintentional.

“Cover-Up Alleged in Probe of USS Liberty” | Jennifer C. Kerr | *A.P.* | 10/22/03 http://www.ifamericansknew.org/us_ints/ul-ap.html

“In 1967, Israeli Forces Bombarded a U.S. Intelligence Ship, Killing 34 Americans and Leaving a Legacy of Suspicion”

Ken Ringle | *Washington Post* | 2/1/03, p.C01 http://www.fpp.co.uk/History/General/USS_Liberty/WashPost010203.html

Excerpt: “There has never been a real investigation,” says James Bamford, right, author of “Body of Secrets,” a critically praised 2001 investigative history of the NSA that includes perhaps the most concise documented account of the attack on the Liberty. Disinformation was a major strategy employed by the Israelis in the Six-Day War from the beginning, he says, and the U.S. government, preoccupied at the time with the Vietnam War and the Cold War, chose to avoid looking closely at what happened to the Liberty.

“An investigation is what we did after the Cole bombing when we sent agents to Aden, or after the bombings at the embassies in Africa, when we sent agents there to find who was responsible,” Bamford says. “Nobody was ever sent to Israel to ask questions about the Liberty. We just took the Israelis’ word for what happened.”

A Navy court of inquiry, Bamford says, “concerned itself with the ship’s response to the attack. They never even questioned most of the survivors about why all those Americans died. And neither has Congress to this day.”

And unlike the two U.S. pilots who face possible court-martial for the “friendly fire” bombing of Canadian troops last year in Afghanistan, no Israeli has ever been tried or reprimanded for the 205 U.S. casualties on the Liberty. Wrote the colonel who headed Israel’s official investigation into the attack: “I have not discovered any deviation from the standard of reasonable conduct which would justify a court-martial.”

“USS Liberty: Cover Up” | James Bamford | *History News Network* | 7/19/02 <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/191>

James Bamford is a former investigative reporter for ABC News. He is the author of *The Puzzle Palace* (Penguin Books, 1983) and *Body of Secrets: Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency* (Doubleday Publishing, 2001).

“Soviets say it was no accident” (Excerpts from an interview between a PRAVDA.RU journalist and Captain Nikolay Cherkashin are taken from the web page: Archived: “Hot Summer of 1967--The Israeli Attack on America and the ‘Soviet Destroyer’,” *Pravda*, 9/14/02:

http://web.archive.org/web/20021003012918/http://english.pravda.ru/main/2002/09/14/36639_.html Also see: <http://www.usliberty.org/pravdura.htm>

“The Myth of ‘Thirteen Investigations’” | Terence O’Keefe | <http://www.uslibertyveterans.org/files/Thirteen%20Investigation%20Myth.pdf>

Excerpts from the Summary:

Mr. Cristol alleges that there were “thirteen investigations, all of which exonerated Israel.” This allegation is completely false.

Excerpt: Putting aside all other issues, there were not “thirteen” investigations (or whatever you wish to call them). Two of the “thirteen” were complete fabrications — they never happened.

Excerpt: Of the remaining eleven documents referenced by Cristol, at best, three could be argued to have been investigations. The other eight were nothing more than compilations of existing reports. Of those three, two (the *Yerushalmi Report* and the *Ram Ron Report*) were Israeli investigations to determine whether the Israeli Chief Military Prosecutor’s indictments of a number of Israeli military personnel for criminal negligence should be upheld. The third (the Joint Chiefs of Staff Report) was an investigation, but it only inquired into the facts of the message routing system and did not undertake any “investigation” of the attack.

Excerpt: Not surprisingly, the two Israeli reports (or if you prefer “investigations”) not only exonerated Israel, but affirmatively found that no Israeli military personnel did even the slightest thing negligently or improperly.

Those U.S. reports which even offered an opinion uniformly stated that there was not sufficient evidence at the time of the report (in most cases mid-June 1967) to establish that the attack was not a mistake. This is hardly an exoneration of Israel. Nonetheless, Cristol and the Israelis continue to claim, falsely, that there have been “thirteen investigations, all of which have exonerated Israel.”



ARTICLES

“History Channel’s ‘Cover Up: Attack on the USS Liberty’ Gives Crew Chance to Tell Their Story” | Delinda C. Hanley | *WRMEA* | Oct. 2001

<http://www.wrmea.org/2001-october/history-channel-s-cover-up-attack-on-the-uss-liberty-gives-crew-chance-to-tell-their-story.html>

Excerpt: No one was interested in carrying out an in-depth investigation of anything but the communications problems the ship encountered during the Israeli attack. All evidence on the ship — including 820 rocket and cannon holes — was patched up and painted over, and crewmembers were sent home or reassigned (and split up) as if nothing had occurred. After a long wait, Israel paid \$3.5 million in financial compensation to the families of the dead and \$3.5 million to the wounded, some of whom refused to accept the money. In 1982—after Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D-IL) threatened to hold an inquiry—Israel suddenly offered \$6 million for damage to the ship and “to close the book on the USS Liberty affair.” This effectively blocked Senator Stevenson’s hopes for an investigation, and the attack quickly became an official non-issue. As far as Congress and the White House were concerned, it was over.

But it wasn’t over for the survivors, however. In the years since the attack, many suffered post-traumatic stress, emotional problems, nightmares, alcoholism or divorce. Others tried to escape their pain by burying the memories so deeply they wouldn’t hurt. It wasn’t until Jim Ennes published *Assault on the Liberty* in 1980 that the crew began to go public with their story to tell their country what had really happened to their shipmates.

“‘The USS Liberty’: America’s Most Shameful Secret” | Eric Margolis | *LewRockwell.com* | 5/2/01

<https://www.lewrockwell.com/2001/05/eric-margolis/the-uss-liberty-america-s-most-shameful-secret/>

Excerpt: The attack on ‘Liberty’ was fading into obscurity until last week, when intelligence expert James Bamford came out with *Body of Secrets*, his latest book about the National Security Agency. In a stunning revelation, Bamford writes that unknown to Israel, a US Navy EC-121 intelligence aircraft was flying high overhead the ‘Liberty,’ electronically recorded the attack. The US aircraft crew provides evidence that the Israeli pilots knew full well that they were attacking a US Navy ship flying the American flag.

Why did Israel try to sink a naval vessel of its benefactor and ally? Most likely because ‘Liberty’s’ intercepts flatly contradicted Israel’s claim, made at the war’s beginning on 5 June, that Egypt had attacked Israel, and that Israel’s massive air assault on three Arab nations was in retaliation. In fact, Israel began the war by a devastating, Pearl-Harbor style surprise attack that caught the Arabs in bed and destroyed their entire air forces.

Israel was also preparing to attack Syria to seize its strategic Golan Heights. Washington warned Israel not to invade Syria, which had remained inactive while Israel fought Egypt. Bamford says Israel’s offensive against Syria was abruptly postponed when ‘Liberty’ appeared off Sinai, then launched once it was knocked out of action. Israel’s claim that Syria had attacked it could have been disproved by ‘Liberty.’

Most significant, ‘Liberty’s’ intercepts may have shown that Israel seized upon sharply rising Arab-Israeli tensions in May-June 1967 to launch a long-planned war to invade and annex the West Bank, Jerusalem, Golan and Sinai.

“Survivors Of USS *Liberty* Attack Have Uncovered A New Twist To Know What Is Right

And Not Do It Is The Worst Cowardice, According To Confucius.” | Charley Reese | *Orlando Sentinel* | 6/5/97

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1997-06-05/news/9706040704_1_uss-liberty-liberty-attack-amberjack

Excerpt: Now the survivors, who have doggedly pursued declassification of documents, have uncovered a new twist. Apparently a U.S. submarine was also present and photographed the attack.

Survivors found four members of the crew of the **USS *Amberjack* SS522** who have confirmed that they were present and submerged during the attack. According to Jim Ennes, a USS *Liberty* officer and author, one of the senior enlisted men told the *Liberty* guys that the sound of gunfire, missiles and torpedo explosion was so loud that some of the crew thought the *Amberjack* was under depth-charge attack.

Two other clues: a declassified memo about a briefing of the “303 Committee” (high-ranking U.S. officials) about a sensitive Department of Defense project known as *FRONTLET 615*. A notation mentions a submarine in U.A.R. waters. At the time, Egypt and Syria were called the United Arab Republic.

Second, the official ship’s history shows that the *Amberjack* was in the area during the 1967 war. The *Amberjack*’s former skipper denies it, but remember that both the *Amberjack* and the *Liberty* were on highly classified missions.

Liberty survivors are hoping that other enlisted men or officers who served on that mission of the *Amberjack* will come forward. If indeed periscope photographs were taken, then those pictures would prove that the survivors’ account of the attack is the truth.

“*Liberty* tomb to acknowledge reason for deaths” | William J. Small | *UPI* | 5/30/82

<http://www.upi.com/Archives/1982/05/30/Liberty-tomb-to-acknowledge-reason-for-deaths/2331391579200/?spt=su>

Excerpt: There are nine sites where *Liberty* crewmembers are buried in Arlington, one of which is the mass grave. [Donald] Blalock, 39, said the headstone for the six men has read ‘Died in the Eastern Mediterranean’ for the past 15 years.

But that was not good enough for retired Navy Cmdr. Xavier Bender Tansill, of Chevy Chase, Md., Blalock said, and the through is insistence officials have agreed to change the marker this fall.

Tansill, now in his 80s, was ‘affronted’ by the vague inscription, Blalock said, and ‘through his perseverance and dedication, that headstone is going to be changed to read, ‘Killed on board the USS *Liberty*, June 8, 1967.’