

Remember the Liberty?

Many Americans today remember the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, although that attack took place nearly four decades ago. Likewise, most Americans remember the Alamo, even though that battle took place in 1836.

But how many Americans remember the attack made on the *U.S.S. Liberty*? This is an especially interesting question, because unlike the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Alamo, the attack on the *Liberty* took place only a few short years ago. And also—unlike Pearl Harbor and the Alamo—this attack was not made by a country at war with the United States, but one that is supposedly our ally!

Remember the Liberty!

On June 8, 1967, the *U.S.S. Liberty*, an unarmed, clearly marked communications vessel stationed in the Mediterranean Sea, was savagely attacked without warning in an unprovoked assault by Israeli jet fighters and torpedo boats. Thirty-four U.S. servicemen died in the attack, and another 171 were wounded.

The *Liberty's* mission was to monitor the fighting going on between Israel and its Arab neighbors, which were then at war. Specifically, the *Liberty's* task was to report any evidence picked up by its sophisticated electronic gear as to whether or not Israel was planning to use its nuclear arsenal against the Arabs. The Israelis were not about to have the United States interfere with their use of atomic weapons, no matter what the consequences might be—and so they ordered that the *Liberty* be put out of commission.

Despite the murder of 34 American fighting men, the System which governs this country has continued to give roughly \$2 billion a year in military aid to the very ones who butchered our men in an unprovoked act of blatant, premeditated aggression.

We demand that the Israeli murderers be brought to justice, and that those members of the U.S. government who have aided and abetted this outrage by their silence and complicity be punished also.

Above all, we call on all Americans to

Remember the Liberty!



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New Evidence Shows Israel's Attack on USS Liberty Far More Vicious Than Thought

STARTLING NEW EVIDENCE about the 1967 Israeli attack on the American naval vessel, the USS *Liberty*, has been brought to light in a just-released Random House book, *Assault On The Liberty*, by James M. Ennes, Jr.

Ennes was on the bridge of the *Liberty* during much of the assault. He was commissioned an ensign in 1962, and from 1965 until he retired from the Navy, he was assigned to cryptologic duties.

The *Liberty*, which was attacked in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula, was initially attacked by Israeli high performance jets. Those attacks were followed by torpedo boats armed to kill. The attack lasted for two hours, killing 34 Americans and wounding 171 others. When the *Liberty* failed to sink quickly, Israeli forces machine-gunned her life rafts and sent in troop-carrying helicopters.

Once the US' Sixth Fleet rescue aircraft were on their way, the Israelis quickly apologized, claiming that her forces had mistaken the ship for an Egyptian freighter. The US government quietly accepted the excuse. But Ennes produces strong evidence to support the following new allegations:

- **Pre-attack reconnaissance was more intense than the government has admitted:** at least 13 orbits of the ship were made by reconnaissance aircraft before the attack, some only 200 feet overhead. (The government claims that only three significant reconnaissance flights were made, and that only one aircraft came within five miles of the ship.)
- **The identification of the ship was known to the Israeli War Room several hours before the attack, and its position plotted on a chart.** (An Israeli aircraft was heard before the attack informing its headquarters by radio that the ship flew an American flag. Bowing to the Israeli request to keep cir-

cumstances of the attack secret, however, the American government states publicly that the *Liberty* was not identified until after the attack.)

- **Three days before the attack, USS *Liberty* requested the Sixth Fleet to send an armed destroyer to provide protection against attack.**

(The Sixth Fleet's commander assured the *Liberty* that she was operating in a safe area, promising immediate support in the "unlikely" event it might be needed—and denying the ship's request for special protection.)

- **Although the Sixth Fleet promised air support within 10 minutes of any request, the US Navy failed to protect the ship during the attack.**

(The *Liberty* pleaded over the radio for assistance for more than two hours, but the Sixth Fleet—because of White House intervention and Sixth Fleet unpreparedness—failed to come to her aid.)

- **Israel's explanation for the attack contradicts known facts and evidence, but was accepted without question by the American government.**

(Israel claims that the *Liberty* was mistaken for the small Egyptian freighter *El Arish*, even though Israel and the US were both aware that *El Arish* was far from the area. Israel also claims that the attack occurred because Israeli motor torpedo boats falsely identified *Liberty* as an enemy vessel after erroneously tracking the ship by radar at 30 knots—although she was only moving at five knots—and subsequently called in the air strike. The strike, which in fact was called before the torpedo boats were within radar range of the *Liberty*, was organized by forces ashore.)

- **A cover-up of the circumstances of the attack was ordered by President Johnson.** (The President was concerned with negotiating a peace treaty in the Middle East and could ill afford a confrontation with Israel;

he thus accepted Israel's flimsy explanation, failed to investigate the attack properly, and ordered a cover-up of the circumstances that were already known.)

- ***Liberty* sailors were forbidden any unsupervised contact with the press, even after the "news lid" was lifted.**

(Crewmen were not allowed to talk with reporters until after a Court of Inquiry report was published. Even then, however, sailors were permitted to repeat only the official version of the attack and only in the same words the Court had used. The few interviews that were authorized were carefully supervised and rehearsed.)

- **Testimony to the Court of Inquiry revealed that the attack was probably deliberate, but all such evidence was withheld from the public.**

(*Liberty* officers and crewman told the Court of Inquiry of extensive low-level pre-attack reconnaissance, of the ship's American flag clearly displayed and of a prolonged and carefully orchestrated attack. All such details were ignored or classified Top Secret in order to support the government's contention that the

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attack was a mistake.)

- **The American public was given a distorted version of the attack.**

(The public was told that the air attack lasted five or six minutes; the ship's officers recall—and testified—that it lasted 20 or 25 minutes. The US claims that the attack ended with the torpedo explosion, while in fact torpedo boats fired on the ship's life rafts 40 minutes after that explosion—and fired on the crew in the interim. The fact that Israeli forces repeatedly used napalm against the crew was never made known. Moreover, although the government claims that the ship was never in danger of sinking, officers recall that "scuttle ship," "demolish ship" and "prepare to abandon ship" orders were given.) ■ ☆ ■

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