

April 13 2006

USS Liberty Deposition

My name is David Edwin Lewis. At the time of the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty I was the Department Head of the Research Department of the Research Ship Liberty. Prior to the attack I had seen Israeli aircraft flying reconnaissance missions over our ship and consequently assumed we were in no danger and had advised the Captain that we should maintain our programmed track. Prior to and during the attack I was in my office below decks supervising my department, especially after the attack began, in the hopes of identifying our attackers so I witnessed personally no part of the actual attack.

Subsequent to the attack, I was MedEvaced to the USS America. While convalescing, I was called to RADM Lawrence Geis cabin where I was informed by him, that he had launched Aircraft twice to come to our rescue but they had been recalled twice by Washington, initially by SECDEF Robert MacNamara and subsequently by President Lyndon Johnson. He told me that he expected a coverup and he had to tell someone from the Liberty what had happened. He then swore me to secrecy and I remained silent until I heard that he had passed away.

I was on the ground in Malta for 4 hours while being transferred to the Naples Hospital but none of us were allowed to deplane and visit Liberty.

RADM Geis was the only person who swore me to secrecy and only about his conversation with me.

I swear that the above statements are true to the best of my recollection at this late date.

David E. Lewis CDR USN Ret.