

Mr. Onderdonk,

You are quick to point out that the men of the USS Liberty are anti-Semites. I do not think they are. They are bitter about being slaughtered by the Israelis and they are bitter about being deserted by their own government while they were under attack. The ship was basically unarmed, 34 men were killed and 173 were wounded out of a crew of 295. And now people like you come along call them anti-Semites and refuse to give a reason why you do not support them and you and the American Legion are deserting them all over again. The men live with this dastardly, treacherous attack every day.

Let's leave the Israelis out of this for a moment and let's see what the American government has done to the crew of the USS Liberty.

- The government recalled 2 sets of flights which were launched from aircraft carriers while they were under attack (they were 15 fly minutes away). They could have prevented the deaths of 25 Americans by just providing air cover. Under the UCMJ desertion in battle is punishable by death. Lyndon Johnson knew that the attacking airplanes were Israeli, but the men on the ship did not because there were no markings on the airplanes.
- The government (Admiral Kidd) threatened the crew with imprisonment if they spoke out - there are many crew witnesses to this.
- The government only allowed a one week investigation and then falsified the report. I believe there are 4 active investigations going on in the Benghazi affair today. Major Hassan is just coming to trial after years of investigations.
- The USS America (aircraft carrier) sent to help the USS Liberty traveled at 28 knots instead of the 56 knot capable battle speed while the Liberty had a 40' gash in its side and 2/3 of the crew was killed or wounded.
- There were massive casualties on board the USS Liberty and only one doctor on board. Dr. Kiepfer was also wounded but operated for 18 hours straight. Dr. Kiepfer wore a life jacket during the entire time to keep his intestines from falling out. Morphine was rationed only
- to the severely wounded.
- The ship was sent to Malta (7 days away) for repairs instead of Crete (1.5 day away) to shield the ship from the press. The USS Liberty had severe battle damage. Did they want it to sink? The ship sailed a course over the deepest part of the Mediterranean with a 40' hole in its side and the bulkheads were bulging and severely damaged. Two bodies floated out of the gash (hole) and were picked up by the USS Davies (trailing the Liberty). I wonder how many bodies were lost that night? The remaining body parts were buried in a mass grave in Arlington.
- The government has conducted sham investigations where they would not allow the men of the Liberty to testify. They have kept information from the public and the crew of intercept messages by USA Air Force intelligence officers and naval communications specialists who overheard the Israeli pilots communicating with Israeli headquarters identifying the USS Liberty as American.

- The Navy took the ship to a small naval yard, instead of its home port, so not to draw attention from the press.
- Captain McGonagle was given the MOH in an obscure naval yard by a naval officer instead of by the president.
- The Navy took the Liberty off the NVR (Naval Vessel Registration) website until we got involved and lied about the reasons why. The USS Liberty is one of the highest decorated ships in naval history.

People who can not win arguments based on the facts will resorts to labeling people and defaming them with names. Joe McCarthy was very good at it by labeling people as communists in the 1950's. Here you are doing it to a highly decorated crew. It is shameful.

Perhaps you think what the American government did to its own sailors is OK, but I do not and 99.9% of veterans that know the story feel exactly the way I do.

I think you are a coward by not stating why the American Legion will not support the men of the USS Liberty in a fair investigation to let them testify. The VFW has passed resolutions 7 times for fair investigations since 1995 and I know there were more resolutions before that. HOW CAN THAT BE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What kind of veteran organization is the American Legion?

As an American and veteran, I do not understand what you believe in nor stand for. Your actions are despicable and outrageous.

Ted Arens
Post 10 Manistee
VFW Post 4499 Manistee
USMC Vietnam

http://www.macombdaily.com/article/20130802/NEWS01/130809916/46-years-later-survivor-of-uss-liberty-ship-attacked-by-israel-still-seeking-answers#full_story



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS 2000 NAVY PENTAGON WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

Mr. Ted G. Arens 2110 Crescent Beach Manistee, MI49660

Dear Mr. Arens:

1750

Ser N135/540 August 21, 2009

Thank you for your letter of August 2, 2009, to the Chief of Naval Operations, concerning Sailors who perished, or were injured, onboard the USS LIBERTY. Since Navy Casualty matters fall under my purview, your letter was referred to me.

Unfortunately, Navy historical information is not maintained under the cognizance of the Chief of Naval Operations; however, I have found that the USS LIBERTY was removed from the Naval Vessel Registry due to its deconmissioning in June 1968. You can obtain additional information about the USS LIBERTY by contacting the Naval History and Heritage Command, 805 Kidder Breesse Street, SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060.

If you have any further questions concerning Navy historical data, please contact the Naval History and Heritage Command. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know

Sincerely

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V.v- W. MCCAUSLAND Director,
Personal Readiness and Community Support (N135)

November 11, 2009 Veterans Day

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington DC, 20350-2000

Dear Admiral Roughead,

Thirty Four (34) men died on the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967 and one hundred and seventy one (171) were wounded out of a crew of two hundred ninety four (294). They gave their lives to this Country.

The USS Liberty is not on the Naval Vessel Registry website (<http://www.nvr.navy.mil/nvrships/index.htm>). Six ships (**) which aided the ship in its recovery after the attack are on the website:

	ON NAVAL WEBSITE	STATUS
USS Liberty	No	Scrapped
USS Littlerock (Sixth Fleet Flagship)**	Yes	Decommis.
USS America (AC carrier)**	Yes	Disposed of
USS Saratoga (AC carrier)**	Yes	Decommis.
USS Massey (Destroyer)**	Yes	Scrapped
USS Davis (Destroyer)**	Yes	Scrapped
USS Papago (ocean tugboat)**	Yes	Decommis.

These men gave their lives and their blood for their Country. They deserve to be honored.

Please put the USS Liberty on the Naval Vessel Registry website.

Respectfully,

Ted G Arens
Manistee, MI



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

1750
Ser N8F/9U163045
29 Dec 09

Mr. Ted G. Arens
2110 Crescent Beach
Manistee, MI 49660

Dear Mr. Arens,

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2009 regarding the omission of the ex-LIBERTY (AG 168) from the Naval Vessel Register (NVR) website. I am responding on behalf of the Chief of Naval Operations.

As you are aware, ex-LIBERTY was decommissioned and stricken from the NVR in 1968 and subsequently transferred to the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for disposal and scrapped in 1973. However, prior to the NVR becoming a web-based system, a ship disposed of by the Navy (as in the case of ex-LIBERTY), would be removed entirely from the NVR. Today, stricken ships are automatically retained in the NVR's historical database. Out of respect for the crewmen that were killed and wounded, I have directed ex-LIBERTY be documented in the NVR's historical database.

The U.S. Navy recognizes and appreciates your continued diligence and support of ex-LIBERTY, her crew members and their families. The Navy fully understands the historical significance of this vessel and the importance of those who have given their lives in the service of their country. If I can be of further service, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. G. MYERS", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

A. G. MYERS
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director, Warfare and Integration
(N8F)