

STATE OF VERMONT
COUNTY OF ESSEX

VERMONT GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, this day personally appeared DAVID E. LEWIS, who after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

1. My name is DAVID E. LEWIS.
2. I am over the age of 18 and am a resident of the State of VERMONT. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein, and, if called as a witness, could testify competently thereto.
3. On June 8, 1967, I served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy on board USS Liberty, a dedicated intelligence-gathering ship. I was the senior officer in what was known as the research department (the intelligence gathering unit).

USS Liberty carried no offensive armament, having only four .50 caliber machine guns intended solely for use repelling boarders. The ship had a highly distinctive silhouette that it bristled with antennas, including a huge "moon bounce" dish antenna on the stern deck.

At approximately 1400 hours on June 8, 1967, our ship was attacked without warning by naval and air forces of the State of Israel. In this unprovoked attack, thirty-four of my colleagues were killed and more than 170 were injured. Our crew suffered seventy percent casualties. Despite the fact that there were American aircraft only twenty minutes away, no one came to our aid that day.

Sixteen hours after the attack began, we were evacuated by helicopter to USS America. On America, I met privately with Rear Admiral Lawrence Geis.

On June 9th, 1967 Admiral Geis told me that he wanted somebody to know that we had not been forgotten and that attempts had been made to come to our assistance.

Admiral Geis surmised that perhaps McNamara had ordered the recall because he was afraid that there might have been nuclear weapons on board the aircraft. He quickly reconfigured and launched a second flight of aircraft with strictly conventional weapons. Again, he notified Washington that assistance was on its way to Liberty. For a second time, Secretary McNamara ordered the aircraft recalled.

Admiral Geis was shocked that rescue aircraft would be recalled when an American ship was under attack. He requested confirmation of the order. McNamara's boss, President Lyndon Johnson, then came on the line to confirm the order. Johnson told Admiral Geis, and Geis told me, that Johnson "didn't give a damn if the ship sunk" and that he "would not embarrass his allies".

After describing his conversations with Secretary McNamara and President Johnson, Admiral Geis swore me to secrecy for the rest of his lifetime. He passed away 23 years later, in 1980.

If called upon to testify, I am competent to testify to the foregoing facts based upon my personal knowledge.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 22nd day of April, 2012 in Lemington VT.

David E. Lewis
DAVID E. LEWIS

JURAT

State of VERMONT
County of ESSEX

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 22nd day of April, 2012, by DAVID E. LEWIS.

(Notary Seal)



David E. Lewis
Notary Public in and for the State of Vermont

My Commission expires: 3/2015