

CRIPPLED LIBERTY ON WAY TO MALTA

U.S. Warship Attacked by Israelis to Be Repaired

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ABOARD U.S.S. AMERICA, in the Eastern Mediterranean, June 11—The Navy electronics ship Liberty, crippled by an accidental attack by Israeli torpedo boats and jet fighters in the Mediterranean off the Sinai coast Thursday, was on her way to Malta today, where she will go into dry dock, a Navy spokesman said.

At Malta, the bodies of 22 men still trapped in flooded compartments below the second deck, where an Israeli torpedo hit, will be recovered and sent to the United States for burial. The bodies of nine other men have been taken from the ship and were flown yesterday from this carrier to Athens for the trip home.

Seventy-five of the Liberty's 15 officers and 275 men were wounded during the attack. Of these, 59 hospital cases were brought to the carrier and the accompanying cruiser, Little Rock, the flagship of Vice Adm. William I. Martin, the Sixth Fleet commander.

Three of the most serious cases, with head and eye wounds, were flown from the carrier to a military hospital in West Germany. The less seriously wounded men have stayed aboard the Liberty.

The spokesman said the Liberty was expected to arrive in Valletta Harbor in Malta Tuesday morning. The Liberty was proceeding toward Malta, in the central Mediterranean, this morning at a speed of about 10 knots and at last report was southwest of Crete.

List Is Partly Corrected

Her eight-degree list to the starboard has been reduced three to four degrees by emergency repairs.

The Liberty is being accompanied by the destroyer Davis and the tug Papago. Comdr. William L. McGonagle of Lakewood, Calif., the captain of the Liberty, has remained with his ship despite a leg wound.

Although Navy officials have said the ship was in position 15 miles offshore to relay communications for the evacuation of American civilians from the Middle East, it is believed she was performing an intelligence role and monitoring Egyptian and Israeli communications.

The spokesman said that after the bodies have been recovered from the Liberty at Malta, an extensive technical investigation of the damage would be conducted and repairs would be made as quickly as possible.