

## 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 ac-  
cidental attack by Israeli tor-  
pedo 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 Lib-  
erty was expected to arrive in  
Valletta Harbor in Malta Tues-  
day 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 emer-  
gency repairs.

The Liberty is being accom-  
panied by the destroyer Davis  
and the tug Papago. Comdr.  
William L. McGonagle of Lake-  
wood, 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 commu-  
nications 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 re-  
covered from the Liberty at  
Malta, an extensive technical  
investigation of the damage  
would be conducted and repairs  
would be made as quickly as  
possible.