

Scuttlebutt



MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



May – Jun 2024



John Cecil

A message from the President

Hooray, we've made the big time. 172 museum visitors in the month of March, with most visitors finding us on the internet. New loop tapes on our Pearl Harbor, Brown Water Navy in Vietnam, plus others, greatly enhances the displays. With the increase in pleasant weather, our parade floats are in high demand. So much so, that Curator Fred Carino is drawing up plans for a WWII Submarine float to add to our fleet. Our monthly dinners have been well attended and we will be having a cookout/picnic on 28 Apr at 14:00 (2pm).

Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, U.S. Navy (Ret), is our guest speaker for this year's Memorial Day Celebration on 27 May at 1400 (2pm). Admiral Buchanan is a much decorated submariner who served aboard numerous submarines, and shore stations. His career led him from his hometown of Villanova, PA., around the world numerous times, to his present anchorage, in the Bradenton, FL., area.

Museum Happenings

Four young ladies from Southern Virginia University, located in Buena Vista VA., were celebrating their Spring Break with friends and relatives in Lake Placid and were looking for something historical. They decided to visit the Military Sea Services Museum in Sebring. They were pleasantly surprised to find a Special Exhibit on women who have served in the Armed Forces not only in medical roles such as doctors and nurses but also as true warriors flying fighter jets, leading Marines in combat and command ships as large as nuclear aircraft carriers. Although none are headed for military service right now, the exhibit gave them something to think about. Come visit the Military Sea Services Museum, "It's where history comes alive!"





Local military arms expert, Micah Marsh, presented a one hour talk in April, about the development of German weapons used in World War I and II. Because of their reputation for precision and reliability, these weapons made a lasting mark on firearm technology in the 20th Century. German firearms have had an impact on popular culture, particularly in films like Star Wars and James Bond. The inclusion of German firearms in films not only acknowledges their historical significance, but also reflects the cultural impact of these iconic franchises. The talk included a slideshow as well as a display of pistols and long guns produced in Germany for military use. The public was cordially invited to this event, which was at 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 3, 2023, and was well attended by many

weapons aficionados. The museum, located at 1402 Roseland Avenue, is one mile east of Sebring High School at the corner of Kenilworth Blvd. Admission to the museum is always free and refreshments were provided. Micah is the Assistant Curator at the Museum.



The MSSM wants to thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4300, Sebring FL, for the thoughtful and heart felt memorial service conducted in remembrance of former museum Vice President, Tim Cannon. The 13-Fold, flag ceremony and presentation were touching moments as was the 21-gun salute for our departed shipmate. May you have Fair Winds and Following Seas, Tim.



7 May 1915



RMS Lusitania, British ocean liner, the sinking of which by a German U-boat on May 7, 1915, contributed indirectly to the entry of the United States into World War I. The RMS Lusitania was a British-registered ocean liner that was torpedoed by an Imperial German Navy U-boat. The attack occurred about 11 nautical miles off the Old Head of Kinsale, Ireland, in the declared maritime war-zone around the UK. This was shortly after unrestricted submarine warfare against the ships of the United Kingdom had been announced by Germany following the Allied powers' implementation of a naval blockade against it and the other Central Powers. The passengers had been warned before departing New York of the danger of voyaging into the area in a British ship. The sinkings of merchant ships off the south coast of Ireland and reports of submarine activity there, prompted the British Admiralty to warn the Lusitania to avoid the area and to recommend adopting the evasive tactic of zigzagging, changing course every few minutes at irregular intervals to confuse any attempt by U-boats to plot her course for torpedoing. The ship's captain, William Thomas Turner, chose to ignore these recommendations. The Lusitania was carrying a cargo of rifle ammunition and shells (together about 173 tons), and the Germans, who had circulated warnings that the ship would be sunk, felt themselves fully justified in attacking a vessel that was furthering the war aims of their enemy. The German government also felt that, in view of the vulnerability of U-boats while on the surface and the British announcement of intentions to arm merchant ships, warning of potential targets was impractical. On May 13, 1915, the U.S. government sent a note to Berlin expressing an indictment of the principles on which the submarine war was being fought. The note was written by Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, a pacifist who was leery of issuing too forceful a rebuke out of fear that it might draw the United States into the war. This note and two following ones constituted the immediate limit of U.S. reaction to the Lusitania incident. Later, in 1917, however, the United States did cite German submarine warfare as a justification for American entry into the war.

On 7 May 1915, U-20 was patrolling off the southern coast of Ireland under the command of Kapitänleutnant Walther Schwieger. Three months earlier, on 4 February, the Germans had established a U-boat blockade around the British Isles and had declared any vessel in it a legitimate target.

At about 13:40 Schwieger was at the periscope and saw a vessel approaching. From about 700 meters (770 yd) Schwieger noted she had four funnels and two masts, making her a liner of some sort. He recognized her as the Lusitania, a vessel in the British Fleet Reserve, and fired a single torpedo. It hit on the starboard side, almost directly below the bridge. Following the torpedo's explosion, the liner was shattered by a second explosion, possibly caused by coal dust, a boiler explosion, or an explosion in the propulsion system – so large Schwieger himself was surprised. In 18 minutes, Lusitania sank with 1,199 casualties. The wreck lies in 300 feet of water.

Fifteen minutes after he had fired his torpedo, Schwieger noted in his war diary:

It looks as if the ship will stay afloat only for a very short time. [I gave order to] dive to 25 meters (82 ft) and leave the area seawards. I couldn't have fired another torpedo into this mass of humans desperately trying to save themselves."

There was at the time a great controversy about the sinking, over whether Lusitania was smuggling contraband war material to England and over the number of torpedoes Schwieger fired. The Allies and the United States originally thought the U-20 fired two torpedoes. Postwar investigations showed only one was fired.

Before he got back to the docks at Wilhelmshaven for refueling and resupply, the United States had formally protested to Berlin against the brutality of his action.

Kaiser Wilhelm II wrote in the margins of the American note, "Utterly impertinent", "outrageous", and "this is the most insolent thing in tone and bearing that I have had to read since the Japanese note last August." Nevertheless, to keep America out of the war, in June the Kaiser was compelled to rescind unrestricted submarine warfare and require all passenger liners be left unmolested.



Kapitänleutnant Walther Schwieger
Commander U-20



Captain William Thomas Turner
Commanding Officer, RMS Lusitania

Wikipedia

8 June 1967



Israel attacks the USS Liberty GTR5

The USS Liberty incident was an attack on a United States Navy technical research ship (spy ship), USS Liberty, by Israeli Air Force jet fighter aircraft and Israeli Navy motor torpedo boats, during the Six-Day War

The combined air and sea attack killed 34 crew members (naval officers, seamen, two marines, and one civilian NSA employee), wounded 171 crew members, and severely damaged the ship. At the time, the ship was in international waters north of the Sinai Peninsula, about 29.3 mi northwest from the Egyptian city of Arish. During the Six-Day War between Israel and several Arab nations, the United States maintained a neutral country status. Several days before the war began, the USS Liberty was ordered to proceed to the eastern Mediterranean area to perform a signals intelligence collection mission in international waters near the north coast of Sinai, Egypt. After the war erupted, due to concerns about its safety as it approached its patrol area, several messages were sent to Liberty to increase its allowable closest point of approach (CPA) to Egypt's and Israel's coasts from 12.5 and 6.5 nautical respectively, to 20 and 15 nautical miles and then later to 100 nautical miles for both countries. Due to ineffective message handling and routing, these messages were not received until after the attack. According to Israeli sources, at the start of the war on 5 June, General Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Air Force (IAF) chief of staff informed Commander Ernest Carl Castle, the American naval attaché in Tel Aviv, that Israel would defend its coast with every means at its disposal, including sinking unidentified ships. He asked the U.S. to keep its ships away from Israel's shore or at least inform Israel of their exact positions. American sources said that no inquiry about ships in the area was made until after the attack on Liberty. In a message sent from U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk to U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour in Tel Aviv, Israel, Rusk asked for "urgent confirmation" of Israel's statement. Barbour responded: "No request for info on U.S. ships operating off Sinai was made until after Liberty incident." Further, Barbour stated: "Had Israelis made such an inquiry it would have been forwarded immediately to the chief of naval operations and other high naval commands and repeated to DEPT [Department of State]. With the outbreak of war, Captain William L. McGonagle of Liberty immediately asked Vice Admiral William I. Martin at the United States Sixth Fleet headquarters to send a destroyer to accompany Liberty and serve as its armed escort and as an auxiliary communications

center. The following day, Admiral Martin replied: "Liberty is a clearly marked United States ship in international waters, not a participant in the conflict and not a reasonable subject for attack by any nation. Request denied." He promised, however, that in the unlikely event of an inadvertent attack, jet fighters from the Sixth Fleet would be overhead in ten minutes.

Official testimony combined with Liberty's deck log establish that throughout the morning of the attack, 8 June, the ship was overflown, at various times and locations, by IAF aircraft. The primary aircraft type was the Nord Noratlas; there were also two unidentified delta-wing jets at about 9:00 a.m. Liberty crewmembers say that one of the Noratlas aircraft flew so close to Liberty that noise from its propellers rattled the ship's deck plating, and that the pilots and crewmembers waved to each other. It was later reported, based on information from IDF sources, that the over-flights were coincidental, and that the aircraft were hunting for Egyptian submarines that had been spotted near the coast.

After 8 hours of questionable decisions, reports of missed communications, incorrect plotting of identified & unidentified contact positions in the Mediterranean Sea, plus a cacophony of errors, by both sides, the Mirage Jets attacked with 30mm cannons and rockets until their ammunition was expended. Two Dassault Super Mystères, armed with napalm bombs, released their payloads over the ship and strafed it with their cannons. Much of the ship's superstructure caught fire. The Mysteres were readying to attack again when the Israeli Navy, alerted by the absence of return fire, warned Kislev that the target could be Israeli. At the time of the attack, the USS Liberty was flying the American flag, and its identification was clearly indicated in large white letters and numerals on its hull. ... Experience demonstrates that both the flag and the identification number of the vessel were readily visible from the air ... Accordingly, there is every reason to believe that the USS Liberty was identified, or at least her nationality determined, by Israeli aircraft approximately one hour before the attack. The subsequent attack by the torpedo boats, substantially after the vessel was or should have been identified by Israeli military forces, manifests the reckless disregard for human life. Israel apologized for the attack, saying that the USS Liberty had been attacked in error, after being mistaken for an Egyptian ship. Both the Israeli and U.S. governments conducted inquiries and issued reports that concluded the attack was a mistake due to Israeli confusion about the ship's identity. Others, including survivors of the attack, have rejected these conclusions and maintain that the attack was a deliberate.

In May 1968, the Israeli government paid US\$3.32 million to the U.S. government in compensation for the families of the 34 men killed in the attack. In March 1969, Israel paid a further \$3.57 million to the men who had been wounded. In December 1980, it agreed to pay \$6 million as the final settlement for material damage to the ship plus 13 years of interest.

(Condensed)



**CDR W. L. McGonagle
Commanding Officer**

USS Liberty



May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1  NATIONAL LOYALTY DAY <small>shutterstock.com - 2195404319</small>	2 2011 Osama bin Laden Killed by Navy Seals	3	4 
5  CINCO DE MAYO	6 Veterans Assn Mtg 1800 Call (860) 480-2550	7 MSSM BOD Mtg 1630 Tomorrow	8 	9	10	11
12  Happy Mother's Day	13 Established  1908	14	15	16	17	18  ARMED FORCES DAY
19	20  National Women in Aerospace Day	21	22	23  Today is National Taffy Day!	24	25
26 MSSM Dinner 1430	27  Happy Memorial Day	28	29	30  National Water a Flower Day	31	
 LOYALTY DAY	<p>On July 18, 1958, the Congress designated May 1 of each year as Loyalty Day to foster loyalty and love of the country. According to the Legal Information Institute, the President is requested to issue a proclamation, calling on United States government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Loyalty Day, and inviting the people of the United States to observe Loyalty Day with appropriate ceremonies in schools and other suitable places. We love our country.</p>					 LOYALTY DAY MAY 1ST LOYALTY DAY

Jun 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	<p>The Battle of Midway was a major naval battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II that took place 4–7 June 1942, six months after the Empire of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and one month after the Battle of the Coral Sea. The U.S. Navy under Admirals Chester W. Nimitz, Frank J. Fletcher, and Raymond A. Spruance defeated an attacking fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy under Admirals Isoroku Yamamoto, Chūichi Nagumo, and Nobutake Kondō north of Midway Atoll, inflicting devastating damage on the Japanese fleet. Military historian John Keegan called it "the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare. Naval historian Craig Symonds called it "one of the most consequential naval engagements in world history, ranking alongside Salamis, Trafalgar, and Tsushima Strait, as both tactically decisive and strategically influential"</p>					1	
2	<p>Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800 Call (860) 480-2550</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8
							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		<p>MSSM BOD MTG 1630 Tomorrow</p>					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	<p>Established 1898</p> 						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
<p>MSSM Dinner 1430</p>							
30	<p>The Battle of Saipan, fought between June 15 to July 9, 1944, was a significant turning point in the Pacific Theater. As part of the Mariana and Palau Island Campaign, the island became the focal point of intense fighting between the American and Japanese forces. The strategic importance of Saipan made the battle one of the most crucial engagements of World War II, and it provided the Allies with a valuable stepping stone toward the Japanese mainland.</p>						

Motivational Military Quotes

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” - [Harry Truman](#)

“Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran doesn’t have that problem.”- [Ronald Reagan](#)

“A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.” - [Bob Dylan](#)

“We sleep peaceably in our beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on our behalf.” - [George Orwell](#)

“Never was so much owed by so many to so few” -[Winston Churchill](#)

“True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve all others at whatever cost.” - [Arthur Ashe](#)

“Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.” - [John McCain](#)

“If a man hasn’t discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.” - [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

“Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.” - [Alexander Hamilton](#)

” Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.” - [Douglas MacArthur](#)

“This will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” - [Elmer Davis](#)

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