

Liberty: The Ships That Won the War

Peter Elphick



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During World War II, more Liberty ships were built for the U.S. merchant marine than any other type ship. The ability of American shipyards to turn out these vessels faster than the U-boats could sink them kept the vital transatlantic supply routes open and secured Allied victory in the Battle of the Atlantic. An astonishing 2,710 vessels were launched in less than four years, and only 200 were lost to enemy action. This book tells the legendary ship's full story, from the inception of its design, through the massive production effort, to the Liberty's wartime career in all theaters of war. The story is told largely in the words of those who built and sailed them. Along with tales of heroism and endurance are details of the potentially fatal problems of structural failure they suffered, which put the whole program in doubt for a time. The book is a fitting tribute to the civilian ship and men many credit with winning the war.



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