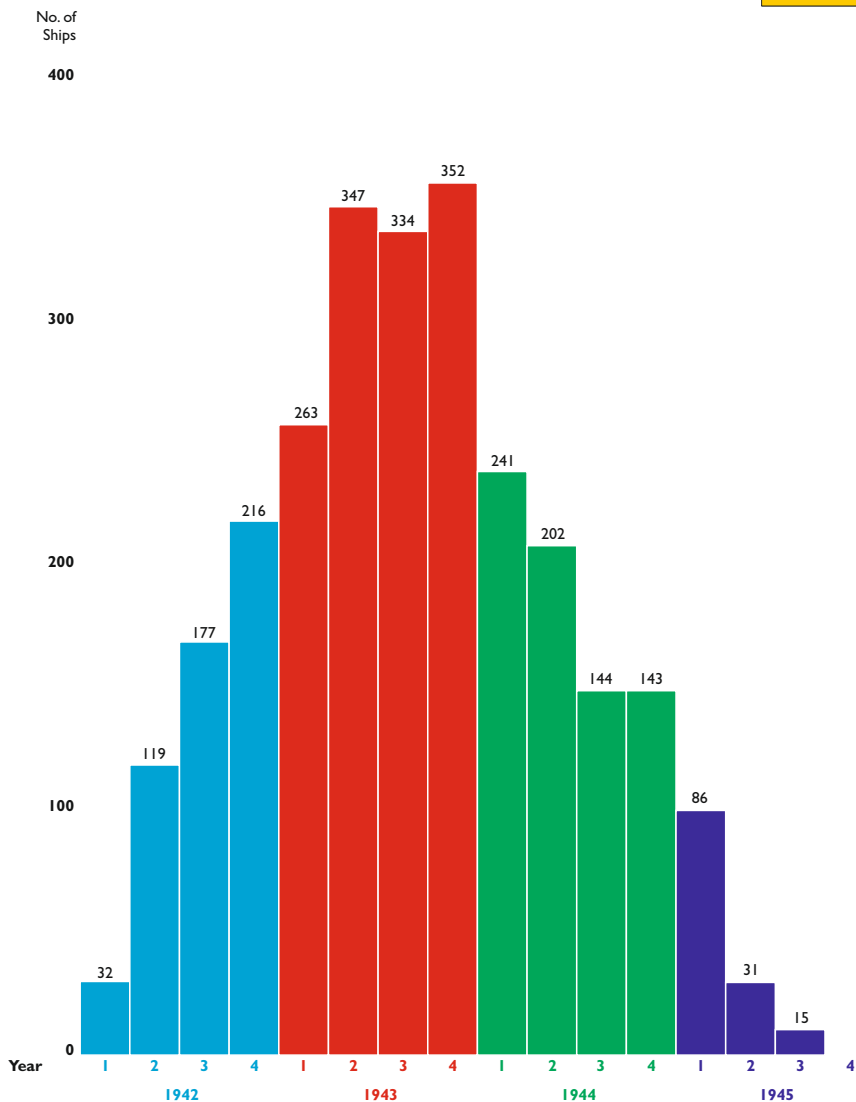


Quarterly Production of Liberty Ships: 1942-1945

Chart: B.1



A total of 2,708 Liberty Ships were constructed during the war with a deadweight tonnage of 29.2m tons. They cost US\$1.75m and were expected to take 5 months to build. Within six months the build time fell to just 50 days. The cargo ships were named Liberty Ships by the US Maritime Commission as a propaganda exercise after Roosevelt had described them as ugly ducklings. Liberty Ships eventually accounted for 46% of all hulls and 42% of total deadweight tonnage commissioned during the war. Liberty Ships had five cargo holds with a combined capacity of 41,135 cubic feet. Wooden hatch covers doubled as rafts in case the ship was sunk. Liberty ships had a deadweight tonnage of 11,000 tons; thus at the peak of production in 1943 Liberty Ships alone accounted for 14.2m deadweight tons compared to a peak Japanese production of cargo tonnage of 945,000 tons in 1944.