

Model of American Built “Victory” Class Ship



A Standard US Victory Ship – now a classic.

In 1943, the United States began a new ship-building program. These new ships would be faster, larger, and able to carry cargo long after the war was finished. These were the Victory ships and a big advancement on the earlier “Liberty” Class.

Speed was the key difference between the Victory and Liberty ships. They were fitted with Steam Turbine Engines which gave them a maximum service speed in excess of 16 knots. This was a huge advancement over the “Liberty” ship’s steam reciprocating engines which at best only gave a speed of 10 knots when loaded.

A further improvement with the “Victory” design was the larger strengthened Hull, which not only allowed for a greater cargo carrying capacity but also gave these ships the prospect to operate commercially once hostilities were over. Following WW2, more than 170 vessels of this class were sold to commercial shipping interests worldwide. The “Victory” also saw distinguished service during the Korean and Vietnam War with the US Military.

Many of these vessels, because of their versatility, were upgraded and modernized by many international shipping interests, a result of which they provided sterling service well into the 1980s (and in a few cases beyond that date). A total of 535 vessels were built in the US across 7 shipyards. Not only were these ships very versatile but their fine lines and pleasing design were very easy on the eyes.

End

Credit: National Museum of American History/US Dept. of Commerce

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