

The Voyage of the CSS Shenandoah: A Memorable Cruise

William C. Whittle



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The only Confederate ship to circumnavigate the globe.

The Confederate cruiser *Shenandoah* was the last of a group of commerce raiders deployed to prey on Union merchant ships. Ordered to the Pacific Ocean to "greatly damage and disperse" the Yankee whaling fleet in those waters, the *Shenandoah's* successful pursuit of her quarry compared favorably with the exploits of the more celebrated *Alabama and Florida* but has never been as well known because it coincided with the war's end and the Confederacy's downfall. It was, however, one of the best documented naval expeditions—from England to the Indian Ocean, Australia and the South Pacific, the Bering Sea, San Francisco, and finally to port in Liverpool—during the Civil War.

The ship's log and Captain James Waddell's notes are well preserved, and a number of the *Shenandoah's* officers kept detailed journals of the entire voyage. One of the most significant journals, by Lieutenant William Whittle, is presented here, with annotations from other journals, the official records and logs, and newspaper accounts of the *Shenandoah's* activities, together bringing to life the history of this remarkable voyage.



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