

CSS *Shenandoah* was the only Confederate ship to circumnavigate the globe.



# LAST SURRENDER

THE INCREDIBLE COMBAT CAREER OF THE CONFEDERATE RAIDER SHENANDOAH. FLYING CONFEDERATE COLORS, SHE WOULD CIRCLE THE GLOBE IN SEARCH OF UNION SHIPS. SHE WOULD KEEP FIGHTING FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR HAD COME TO ITS BLOODY CONCLUSION

BY NYLES JEFFERS



During his career in the US Navy, Waddell would sail aboard USS *John Adams*.

It was with some uneasiness that Lieutenant Commander James L. Waddell took his ship up the River Mersey to Liverpool, England, on a cool and gray 6 November 1865. With the Confederate flag slapping in the light wind, Waddell watched from the deck of his beloved CSS *Shenandoah* as crowds on the banks of the river grew increasingly large. They were silent — just watching as the Confederate raider moved towards docking. How would he and his brave crew be greeted? Would they be viewed as sailors from a defeated combatant that served their cause honorably or would they be scorned as the lowest scum of sea-going pirates? These were vexing problems as the slim hull of the *Shenandoah* cut through the murky water.

His globe-circling warrior had originally started life in 1863 as an auxiliary composite passenger/cargo ship named *Sea King*. Built by Alexander Stephen & Sons at Glasgow, Scotland, for the firm of Robertson & Company, she weighed in at 1018 tons with a length of 230 feet, beam of 32.5 feet, and draft of 10 feet 6 inches. She had been sturdily constructed for the lucrative East India tea trade and to also haul troops to far-flung outposts of the British Empire. She was a full-rigged ship that mounted an A. & J. Inglis steam engine fitted with a single 14-foot diameter bronze propeller. Under steam, she could make eight knots but with sails raised, this could increase to 16 knots.

While *Sea King* was being built, the Civil War was ripping the United States apart. As with any war, there was money to be made and shadowy visitors went back and forth to the shipyard and watched her construction. She soon changed hands and was purchased by Wallace Brothers out of Liverpool and then set out on her intended mission with cargo trips to the Far East and to New Zealand where she carried troops for the New Zealand Wars (today, completely forgotten. The British attempted to destroy the natives and some colonial forces but suffered a number of costly setbacks. In the end, the overwhelming British military took the field but ill-feelings still dominate much of current New Zealand society).