

## The Voyage of the CSS Shenandoah: A Memorable Cruise

*William C. Whittle Jr*

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**William C. Whittle Jr : The Voyage of the CSS Shenandoah: A Memorable Cruise** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Voyage of the CSS Shenandoah: A Memorable Cruise:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was not that he enjoyed inflicting punishment in irons By Joaquin Hawkins I have been reading the memoirs of the Executive Officer of the Shenandoah. It reveals more truth of the cruise and personalities, how he had been at odds with the captain for that 13 month voyage. Other references depicted Whittle as too much of a zealot in dealing out punishments to prisoners. But, his memoirs explains his ways. It was not

that he enjoyed inflicting punishment in irons. It was his 'encouragements' for prisoners to sign on as crew members of the extremely undermanned ship, and many did. It was not because they had any interest in supporting the Confederacy since most of them were from other nations than America. The promise of plunder and pay and being freed from chains in a hold convinced them to sign. This multinational crew was commanded by officers who were the only Southerners aboard. Many spoke no English or but little. Being chained and triced bridged all language barriers and as Whittle had said, "You rule them or they rule you!"

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A lively view from the Quarterdeck. By Christopher McLarren One of the best of the on-board journals kept by officers on the Confederate Navy cruiser. A lively look at the life aboard and insight into the relationship of the officers and men on their year-long global voyage. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent transcribe of 1st Lieut Whittles Diary with indispensible research By Bobby Ronayne This book is good for people who either want to read a transcribed journal of 1st Lieut Whittle 2nd in command of the CSS Shenandoah, or for people who want to see the excellent research the author did in the back of the book.

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.

From Booklist The journal kept by Whittle on board the Confederate States Steamer Shenandoah was found in the 1980s by his granddaughter, Mary Whittle Chapman, in her grandfather's attic. It consists of 300 pages of daily entries, plus 5 pages of prayers. The entries cover most of the voyage of the cruiser, deployed to prey on Union ships in the Pacific Ocean during the Civil War. Lt. Whittle, the executive officer, was responsible for directing the crew's work and maintaining discipline during the 13 months at sea. The journal was begun on October 21, 1864, and ended on November 3, 1865. An informative 44-page introduction by D. Alan Harris and Anne B. Harris offers background on the ship, the crew, their diet (mostly salt horse, beans, and salt pork), and the games they played (chess, backgammon, dominoes, and whist). The book brings a little-known event in Civil War history vividly to life. George Cohen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "The Voyage of the CSS Shenandoah is an invaluable primary source about what life was like on board a Confederate commerce raider and the kind of men who sailed on them."—Journal of Southern History "Students of the Confederate Navy will want this volume for its detailed observations of an historic, albeit strategically sterile, cruise and its insights into the personnel and operations of the service. For others, it will provide both authentic seagoing adventure and food for thought on the nature of command at sea."—Civil War Book