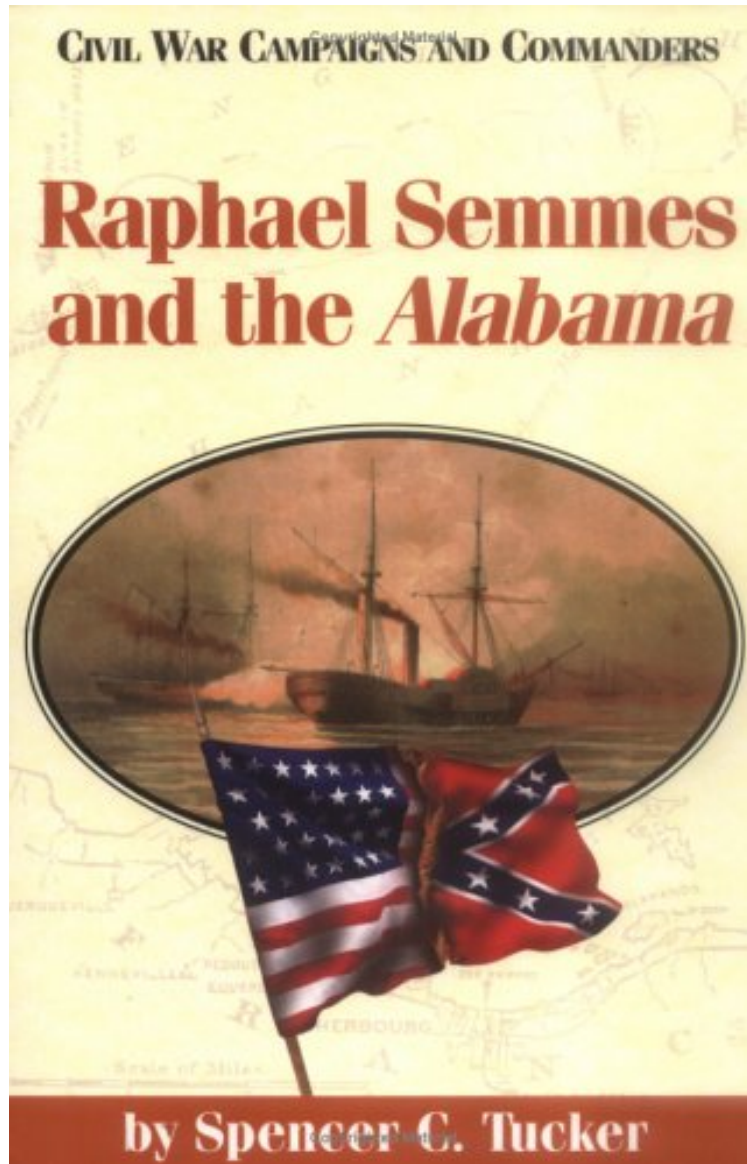


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Raphael Semmes and the Alabama (Civil War Campaigns Commanders (Paperback))

Spencer C. Tucker

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#3753927 in Books State House Press 1998-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.92 x .33 x 5.971, .49
#File Name: 1886661111110 pages | File size: 39.Mb

Spencer C. Tucker : Raphael Semmes and the Alabama (Civil War Campaigns Commanders (Paperback))
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Raphael Semmes and the Alabama (Civil War Campaigns Commanders (Paperback)):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The brief history of the mighty CSS AlabamaBy Joe OwenThe CSS

Alabama was the terror of the high seas for the Union Navy and Merchant Fleet for a time during the Civil War. Civil War Author and Historian Spencer C. Tucker has written a lively and interesting history of this ship and her Captain. At the beginning of the Civil War the Confederacy had no navy to speak of. A few shipyards existed in the south, but none could build a fighting ship in the amount of time the Confederacy needed to counter the Union Navy. The Union had an effective blockade against the southern coastline and ports and was strangling the trade between the south and countries across the Atlantic. The Confederacy was able to build ships, but across the Atlantic in Great Britain who was covertly supporting the Confederacy. The CSS Alabama was built and quickly was able to take and sink Union vessels around the world. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean the Alabama captured or sunk 66 Union ships at sea. Raphael Semmes, the Alabama's captain was a man that was bold and daring, Serving in the Union Navy before the Civil War, he was remembered as being introverted and not well liked among his peers. He would be more disliked after he became a Confederate Sea Captain and sink and humiliate his former shipmates. Before becoming captain of the Alabama, Semmes was captain of the CSS Sumter and was able to capture or sink 18 Union vessels. The Confederacy promoted Semmes to Rear Admiral and he became "the toast of the Confederacy". The book's chapters are: 1. Confederate Commerce Raiding 2. Raphael Semmes 3. "She Had a Sort of Saucy Air About Her" The Sumter 4. The Alabama 5. The Alabama Begins Cruising 6. The Alabama and the Hatteras 7. The Alabama Resumes Her Hunt for Prizes 8. The Alabama and the Kearsarge 9. After the Battle Appendix Prizes Taken by the Sumter and the Alabama Further Reading Index But alas, all things must come to an end when the USS Kearsarge, a great Union warship battled and sank the Alabama off the coast of France on June 19, 1864. While the Alabama was sinking, many of her crew including the Captain were rescued by English vessels including the Deerhound. Captain Semmes was rescued and evaded Union capture. Spencer C. Tucker has been able to give a lively account of the CSS Alabama and her brave and daring captain. It is a brief but entertaining read at 110. He also gives the brief biography of the men who were involved in the history of the CSS Alabama. Good maps of the Alabama's voyages and battles highlight this book as well. This is a good book to have in a Civil War library, Civil War Nautical History, history of the Confederate Navy, and those interested in her Captain Raphael Semmes. A good read! 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Semmes comments about his mainly British crew as "rascals, liars, thieves and drunkards" yet this crew captured 66 ships. By Indiana Lee 11 Jan 1863 in the Gulf of Mexico "The two ships were within hailing distance when Blake (Lieutenant-Comander Homer C. Blake) demanded his opponent's identity. In what Porter (Admiral David Porter) called 'pure perfidy, such as a Zulu warrior would resort to.' Semmes identified his ship as Her Britannic Majesty's steamer Petrel. Reassured, Blake demanded the right to inspect the ship's registry in accordance with international law. After a boat had been lowered and was underway from the Hatteras. Semmes called out. 'This is the Confederate States steamer Alabama. FIRE'. The first broadside from the Alabama was decisive, the Hatteras staggering under its force." Spencer C. Tucker writes a fun book on the history and exploits of the famous Confederate raider The Alabama. He includes some nice maps, drawings and photos for the reader. Not many books write about the other side of the War, the Naval part. So this book is welcomed. The Union navy was crucial in the War with it's blockades and for the Confederate's it was crucial to try to defeat the blockaders. What would you do as the Captain of the Alabama as the Union Navy searches the high seas for you with every ship it can? 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Raphael Semmes and the Alabama By A Customer I enjoyed this book. Took me awhile to read but very enjoyable. Civil War on the high seas!

May 1862. The C.S.S. Alabama is launched in Liverpool and makes its way to the Azores. There it receives its armaments, is commissioned under the command of Raphael Semmes, and embarks on a 21-month journey of unparalleled destruction of the Union merchant fleet. This campaign is highlighted by the sinking of the Union warship Hatteras off Galveston. Semmes and his Alabama search the seas from Newfoundland to the South Atlantic, from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean, for Union merchant vessels. More than sixty ships are sunk or captured before Semmes and his exhausted crew finally meet their match. Trapped by the U.S.S. Kearsarge while anchored in the French harbor of Cherbourg, Semmes comes out to fight. For over an hour the ships bombard each other. Finally, the Kearsarge prevails, sinks the Alabama and takes many of her crew captive. Semmes and many of the rest of the crew are dramatically rescued by the English yacht, Deerhound, and make their way to England. A detailed account by a highly regarded expert in Naval History of the incredible exploits of Raphael Semmes and the Alabama during her 75,000-mile odyssey.

"an excellent series [that] should be in every Texas school!" -- Empire Books About the Author SPENCER C. TUCKER earned his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and is Professor of History at Texas Christian University. He is author of *The Jeffersonian Gunboat Navy*, *Arming the Fleet: U.S. Naval Ordinance in the Muzzle-Loading Era*, *The European Powers in the First World War: An Encyclopedia*, and *Injured Honor: The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair of June 22, 1807*.