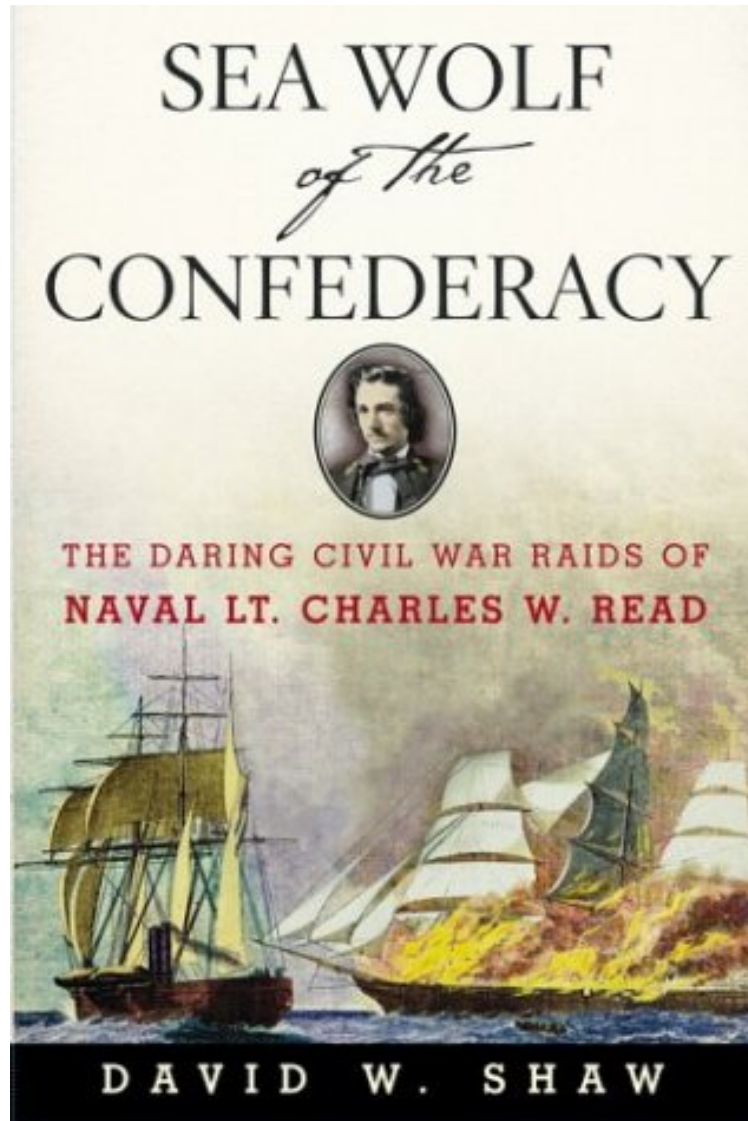


(Free pdf) Sea Wolf of the Confederacy: The Daring Civil War Raids of Naval Lt. Charles W. Read

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David W. Shaw

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David W. Shaw : Sea Wolf of the Confederacy: The Daring Civil War Raids of Naval Lt. Charles W. Read before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sea Wolf of the Confederacy: The Daring Civil War Raids of Naval Lt. Charles W. Read:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Charles Read: Civil War Naval HeroBy Dr. WatsonCharles W. Read, little known Civil War naval hero of the Confederacy. A personal friend of Jefferson Davis, Read set the "gold

standard" for raiding and blockade running during the War. He was later awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor. There are now about 4 books that deal with Read, and this is one of the best. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Berry Hawkins New and interesting. Well worth the read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great gift By curlqueen I usually buy my husband books he has on his list, but I chose this on my own. It was a surprise to him and finally I found something on his favorite subject that he knew nothing about.

In June 1863, just days before the epic clash at Gettysburg ended the last rebel land invasion of the North, a small party of the Confederate Navy mounted a devastating series of raids on the New England coast, culminating in a battle off Portland, Maine. Veteran author David W. Shaw brilliantly re-creates this almost forgotten chapter of the Civil War in rich narrative detail drawn from accounts of the participants. At the center of the conflict were two men: the hotheaded young adventurer Charles W. Read, who resigned his commission as a Union midshipman to become a lieutenant in the Confederate Navy; and Secretary of the United States Navy Gideon Welles, a well-connected politician who ably oversaw the explosive growth of the fleet -- including the revolutionary ironclads -- during the war despite his lack of maritime experience. Serving aboard CSS Florida off the coast of Brazil, Read hatched a daring plan to sail a captured brig directly into the Union's home waters and wreak havoc on their shipping lanes. Burning or capturing more than twenty merchant vessels in less than three weeks, and switching ships several times to elude capture, Read's rampage caused widespread panic in Northern cities, made headlines in the major daily newspapers, and brought enormous pressure on Welles to "stop the rebel pirate." At one point there were nearly forty Union ships sent to hunt down Read in a cat-and-mouse game that finally led to his dramatic capture off the coast of Maine. *Sea Wolf of the Confederacy* brings to light this fascinating yet little known episode of the war, combining Shaw's flair for powerful storytelling with extensive research culled from contemporary newspapers, journals, and official war records. Taking readers to the heart of the action on the decks of the burning ships, Shaw offers a compelling portrait of the complex Read and an insightful new perspective on the divisions splitting North and South during this dark time in American history.

From Publishers Weekly Confederate commerce raider Charles Read rampaged up the Atlantic seaboard in the summer of 1863, capturing and burning dozens of Yankee merchant ships and augmenting Union panic in the weeks leading up to the battle of Gettysburg. Drawing on official reports, news accounts and diary entries of participants, journalist Shaw, author of *America's Victory*, a 19th-century yachting saga, brings this adventure to life in a sprightly historical study of Read and Gideon Welles, the Union Naval Secretary charged with hunting him down. In contrast to the Gettysburg bloodbath, Read's campaign was an almost gallant feat of quick-wittedness and derring-do that destroyed much property but caused almost no casualties. Jumping his command from one captured Yankee ship to the next, always on the alert for fresh victims and novel ruses by which his punily armed crew might overcome them, Read lived the life of a buccaneer but was simultaneously mindful of the punctilious rules governing naval warfare against civilians. Arranging for the safe return of his prisoners to shore was one of Read's biggest headaches, necessitating complex negotiations with passing neutral-or even Yankee-ships; vessels with too many passengers to accommodate were simply released in exchange for an IOU to the Confederate government for their value. Shaw fleshes out the picaresque with sailing lore, sharply etched portraits of figures on both sides, and engaging background material on Union and Confederate naval strategy. Civil War and nautical buffs alike will enjoy this well-told account of a colorful chapter of the Civil War at sea. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist A distinguished popular naval historian adds to his laurels with this presentation of the career of a Confederate Navy lieutenant and expert commerce raider. An undistinguished Annapolis graduate, Charles W. Read went south and served ably at the Battle of New Orleans and aboard the ironclad *Arkansas*. He then shipped out aboard the commerce raider *Florida* and transferred with a small crew to one of her prizes. He thereafter took a succession of armed prizes northward during a rampage along the U.S. coast that ended off Portland, Maine. He exercised to the full his talent for improvisation and was probably the most cost-effective commerce raider in naval history as well as a cause of migraines in the U.S. Navy and for naval secretary Gideon Welles, an underrated Union stalwart whom Shaw vividly portrays as he traces Read's depredations. Shaw is particularly adept at conveying the day-to-day problems Read faced in keeping his ships afloat, his crew fed and disciplined, and the enemy at safe distance. Maritime and Civil War buffs will grab. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. James Tertius de Kay author of *Monitor* and *A Rage for Glory* The Confederate commerce raiders had a devastating effect on American shipping during the Civil War, far out of proportion to their small numbers. Author David W. Shaw, by focusing on just one of the handful of daring raiders -- the fiery Lt. Charles Read -- brings to vivid life one of the most neglected aspects of America's most terrible war, and shows how this small group of high-seas adventurers came to play such an important part in the conflict. --