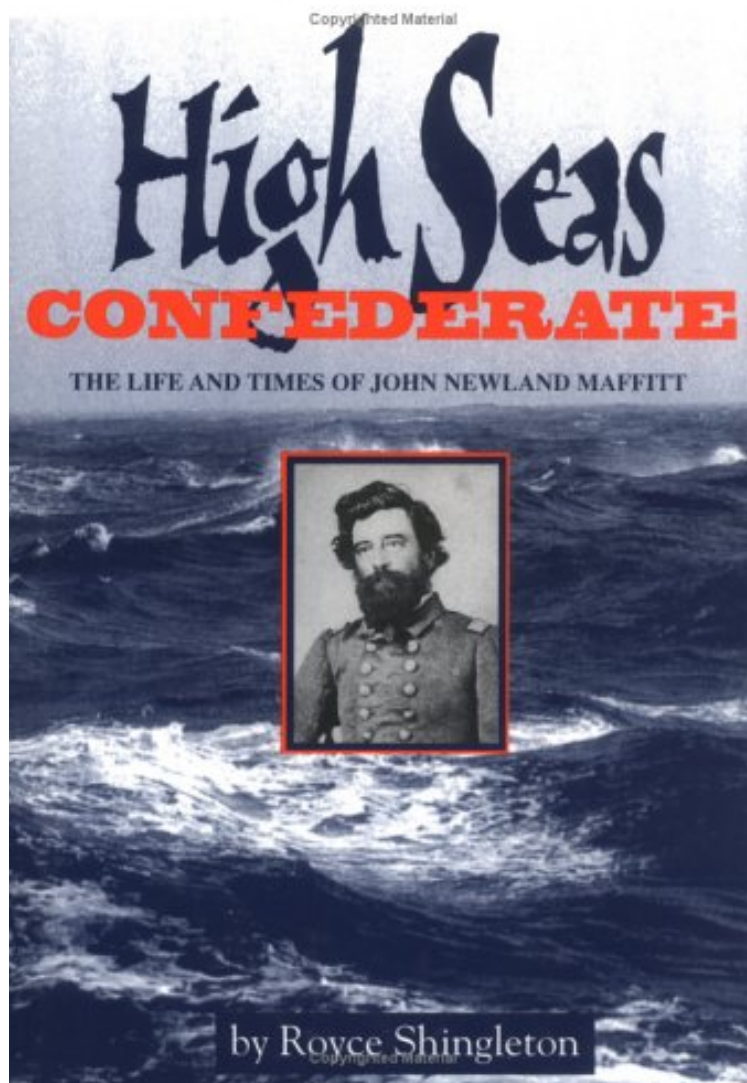


[Mobile library] High Seas Confederate: The Life and Times of John Newland Maffitt (Studies in Maritime History)

High Seas Confederate: The Life and Times of John Newland Maffitt (Studies in Maritime History)

Royce Shingleton

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Royce Shingleton : High Seas Confederate: The Life and Times of John Newland Maffitt (Studies in Maritime History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised High Seas Confederate: The Life and Times of John Newland Maffitt (Studies in Maritime History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great, wonderful, fantastic, love it. By Susan BrennerGreat,

wonderful, fantastic, love it.

The Civil War adventures of a swashbuckling sea captain.

From Publishers Weekly Before the Civil War, Maffitt (1819-1886) was recognized as one of the U.S. Navy's finest officers. After joining the Confederacy in 1861, Maffitt organized blockade-running operations from the West Indies. The high point of his career, however, was his captaincy of the commerce-raider C.S.S. Florida. In only two cruises, Maffitt took 57 prizes, wreaking over \$4 million worth of damage to Union shipping. Reassigned to blockade-running in 1863, Maffitt continued to baffle Yankee captains and bring vital military cargoes into Southern ports until nearly the end of the war. Shingleton (John Taylor Wood: Sea Ghost of the Confederacy) highlights the legal and political aspects of Maffitt's operations, which were still imperfectly regulated by international law. Maffitt's ingenuity, courage, seamanship and high-spirited leadership rendered him an ideal hero for a lost cause. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Maffitt's colorful career as a Confederate commander of the commerce raider C.S.S. Florida and as a blockade runner receives its due in this biographical recounting by Shingleton (Richard Peters: Champion of the New South, Mercer Univ. Pr., 1985). Maffitt's daring and skill helped in the capture of some 45 Union ships, including 23 seized by the Florida itself. These exploits marked him as a thorn in the side of the Union, as did his efforts to run the blockade. Shingleton conveys the excitement of blockade running and commerce raiding in his lively narrative; he is less helpful when it comes to evaluating their significance to the Confederate war effort, for many historians question whether these activities had much impact upon the conduct, course, or outcome of the conflict. The author's admiration and sympathy for both Maffitt and the Confederate cause are evident throughout the narrative, to the point that some may mistake this account for a romantic tale of the Lost Cause. For informed readers. Brooks D. Simpson, Arizona State Univ., Tempe Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist That this biography of Confederate naval officer John Newland Maffitt is rather short for its price is not altogether its author's fault. Much of the material on Maffitt's career as a U.S. naval officer noted for his scientific work and his pursuit of slave raiders, as captain of the Confederate raider Florida, and as blockade runner par excellence did not survive the Civil War itself. Given those limitations, Shingleton's is a readable, informative portrait of an able, appealing figure. Shingleton's pro-Confederate bias is as much an asset as a liability as he provides a thorough delineation of the extent of Confederate maritime activity and its potential, had it been pursued more vigorously, for affecting the course of the war. Roland Green