

SAILING ON, DESPITE SURRENDER

In April of 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, marking the end of the Civil War.

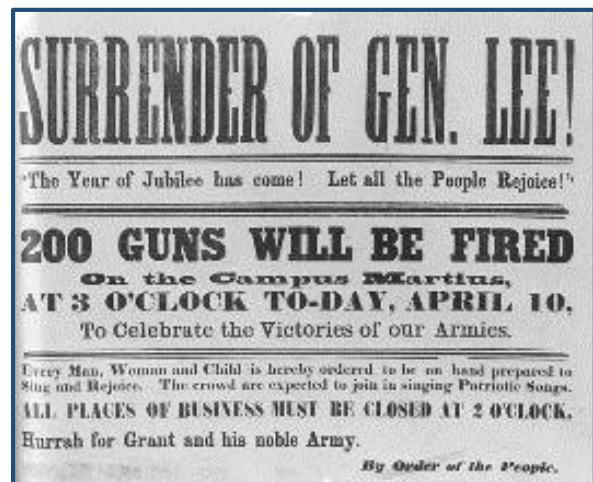
But no one told the crew of the *CSS Shenandoah*. This Confederate ship sailed for an additional six months, attacking and capturing 21 Union merchant ships before surrendering.

The *Shenandoah* was an iron-framed, teak-planked, full-rigged ship with auxiliary steam power. Its captain was Lt. Cmdr. James Waddell, a North Carolinian with 20 years of prior service in the United States Navy. Launched on Aug. 17, 1863, the *Shenandoah* went on to become one of the most feared commerce raiders in the Confederate Navy.

During 12½ months of 1864-65, the ship undertook commerce raiding resulting in the capture and sinking or bonding of 38 Union merchant vessels. When their wartime service ended, Waddell and his crew had taken about 1,000 prisoners without a single war casualty among his crew.

When news of the South's surrender finally reached Waddell, it was too late. The men would now face piracy charges if they tried simply to return to the United States. As the years passed and hearts softened, several of the men were finally able to return home. But they could have avoided years in exile if only they had received the news that the Civil War was over.

During their rogue summer months, the crew of the *Shenandoah* had heard the news. In June, they had seen a newspaper in which Lee's surrender was detailed. But they didn't believe the report to be from a reliable source, and so they ignored it.



The experience of the ship's continued wartime exploits six months after the Confederacy had surrendered is a classic illustration of the importance of communication – in peacetime as well as at war. It is vitally important, too, in the work we are called to do in Life Care and Century Park.

Our patients and our residents deserve the best customer service and attention to their well-being – and it takes a team with an array of professional and personal talents, working closely together, to make that happen.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver (Proverbs 25:11 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter