

A SCOTTISH BLOCKADE RUNNER
IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Joannes Wyllie



NEW!



OF THE STEAMER AD-VANCE

JOHN F. MESSNER



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- The untold story of Joannes Wyllie, son of a gardener from Fife, one of the most successful blockade runners of the American Civil War
- Features his life of adventure and action; he was once declared dead, survived shipwrecks and shark attack, and successfully commanded ships across the globe
- The most comprehensive history of the *Ad-Vance* is provided, from departing Glasgow until capture off the Carolina coast
- Outlines the impact of the American Civil War on Scottish mariners, ship-building companies and ship owners

In Association with Glasgow Museums

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Born in 1828 near Kelso in the Scottish Borders, Wyllie went to sea as an apprentice seaman in 1852 and quickly rose through the ranks. By 1862 he had gained his masters certificate in Liverpool, and there he took command of his first vessel, the *Bonita*. He sailed for Nassau, then a booming port involved in running contraband through the Union blockade of the Confederate States, at that time fighting in the American Civil War. Sailors from Britain rushed to man these vessels as great fortunes could be made if a successful run was made into a Confederate port.

Two agents of the State of North Carolina, Thomas Crossan and John White, were travelling to Britain on the orders of Governor Zebulon Vance to purchase ships to run the blockade. This set Wyllie's career as a blockade runner on course. White and Crossan arranged the purchase of the Clyde-built paddle steamer *Lord Clyde* and, just five months after docking in Liverpool as commander of the *Bonita*, Wyllie took command of the *Lord Clyde*, renamed the *Ad-Vance*.

Two more commands of blockade runners followed; he was captured again and then evaded the American authorities through an ingenious, and at sometimes unbelievable, escape to Scotland. The role that Wyllie played during the Civil War is explored in depth and reveals that he was a constant face, and force, in the crew of the steamer with his actions and abilities being greatly appreciated by both crew and owners alike.

The most comprehensive history of the *Ad-Vance* is provided, from the day she left Glasgow until her capture off the Carolina coast. Many fascinating contemporary passenger diaries, personal recollections from crew, letters and telegrams between Wyllie and Governor Vance, official records of the war and newspaper reports are included.

