

# U.S.S. Kearsarge (1861)

## Mohican Class Screw Sloop of War:

- Laid down, date unknown, at Portsmouth Navy Yard, Kittery, ME.
- Launched, 11 September 1861
- Commissioned **USS Kearsarge**, 24 January 1862, CAPT. Charles W. Pickering in command

During the Civil War **USS Kearsarge** participated in the following:

Participated in the blockade of Confederate raider **CSS Sumter** at Gibraltar in February 1862

Defeated **CSS Alabama** off the coast of France, 19 June 1864

Decommissioned, 26 November 1864, at Boston for repairs

Recommissioned, 1 April 1865

Sailed for the coast of Spain in a failed attempt to intercept the Confederate ram **CSS Stonewall**

- Decommissioned, 14 August 1866, at Boston Navy Yard
- Recommissioned, 16 January 1868 for service in the South Pacific at Valparaiso, Chile, looking out for American commercial interests along the South American coast
- Sailed, 17 April 1869, for the Marquesas, Society, Samoa and Fiji Islands to watch over American commercial interests
- Resumed duties on the South Pacific Station, at Calao, Peru, 21 July 1870
- Decommissioned, 11 October 1870, at Mare Island Navy Yard
- Recommissioned, 8 December 1873, for duty on the Asiatic Station, protecting citizens and commerce in China, Japan and the Philippines
- Decommissioned, 15 January 1878, at Portsmouth, N.H.
- Recommissioned, 15 May 1879, for duty in the North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and coast of Panama
- Cruised the Mediterranean, Northern European waters, and along the coast of Africa, from 21 August 1883 until 12 November 1886
- Decommissioned at Portsmouth Navy Yard, N. H., 1 December 1886
- Recommissioned, 2 November 1888, to protect American interests in the West Indies, off Venezuela, and along the Central Americas.
- Departing Haiti, 30 January 1894, for Bluefields, Nicaragua, *<bKearsarge was wrecked on Roncador Reef off Central America, 2 February 1894. Her officers and crew safely made it ashore.</b>*
- Congress appropriated \$45,000 to raise **Kearsarge** and tow her home; but a salvage team of the Boston Towboat Co. found that she could not be raised
- **Kearsarge** was struck from the Navy List in 1894

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## Specifications:

*Displacement* 1,550 t.

*Length* 201' 4"

*Beam* 33' 10"

*Depth* unknown

*Draft* 14' 3"

*Speed* 11 kts

*Complement* 163

*Armament*

*As Built*

*two 11" smoothbores*

*four 32-pdr/42s*

*1864 - added*

*one 30-pdr muzzle loading rifle*

*one 12-pdr smoothbore*

*1873*

*two 11" smoothbores*

*four 9" smoothbores*

*two 20-pdr muzzle loading rifles*

*Propulsion*

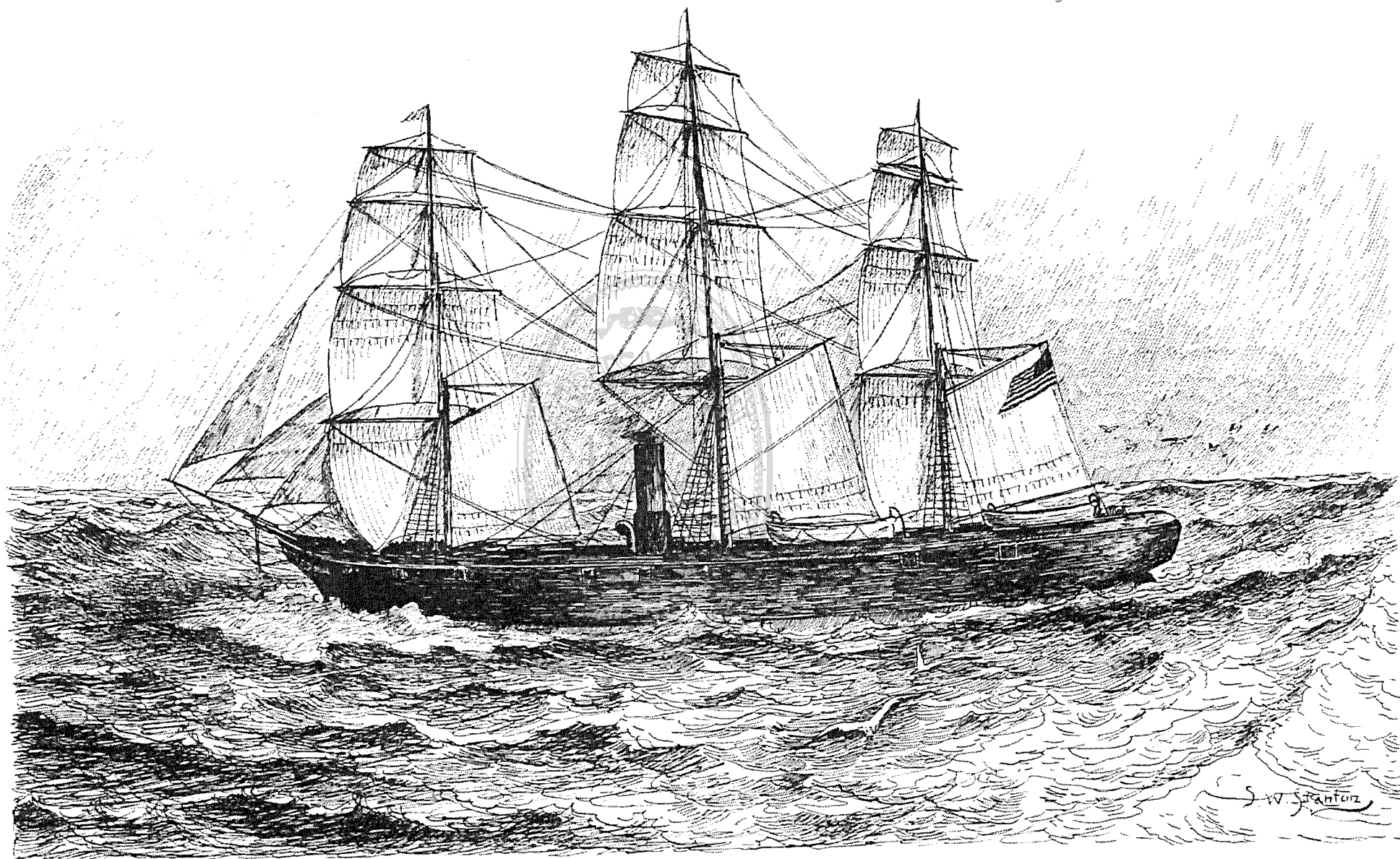
*two horizontal back-acting engines (54" x 2' 6"), 2 boilers; IHP 842 = 11 kts*

*single propeller*

Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, N.H.

From: "nineteenth-century United States Naval Steam  
vessels"

by Stanton, Samuel Ward



*U.S.S. KEARSARGE 1861*  
*Steam Sloop-of-War*

Built at Portsmouth, N. H., Navy Yard, wood, 1550 tons displacement, for Civil War use. Famous for sinking the C.S.S. ALABAMA off coast of France in 1864. Important world-wide cruising for many years. Wrecked on Roncador Reef off Central America in 1894, a total loss.

Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, N.H.