

# *S. S. Pevensey*

## *A stealth machine of the Confederacy*

A Preliminary Archaeological Assessment of the “Iron Steamer” Wreck, Sunk at Pine Knoll Shores, NC

### Appendix A: The photo of the *Mendota*

In Winter 2003, SIDCO Conservator Bobby Willis discovered that the supposed photo of the *Pevensey* was actually that of the Union steamer *Mendota*. Somehow, the photo seen below was mistaken to be that of the *Pevensey*.

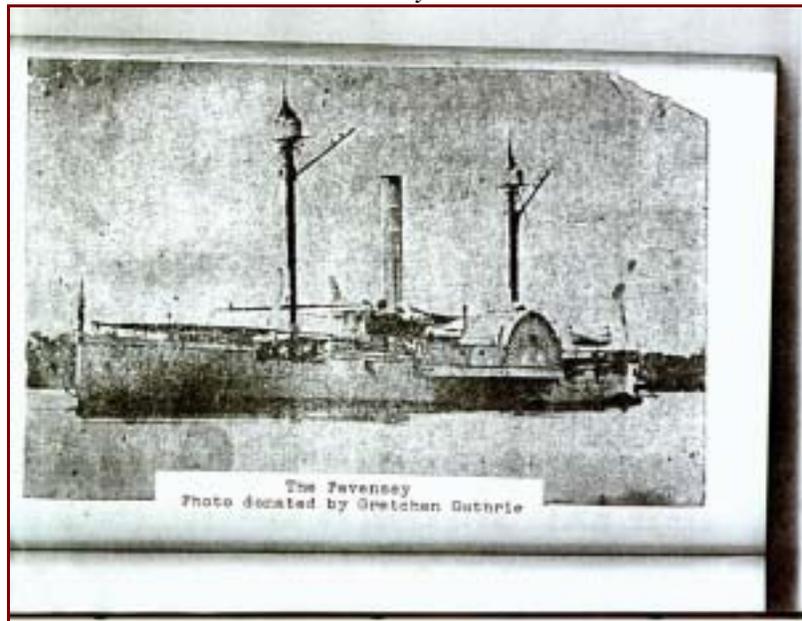


Photo No.2 was taken from the *Civil War Handbook* by William H. Price published by L.B. Prince Co. Inc., Fairfax VA, in 1961, on page 31. The real error is not apparent until you see the 3<sup>rd</sup> photo found by Mr. Willis, also of the *Mendota*, taken on the James River, as part of the Brady Collection.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Photo of the *USS Mendota*, # LC-B8171-2471, Brady Photographic Collection, 1864-65 LOC, Washington.

If you notice the smokestack in photo 3, it is *behind* the crankshaft and paddlewheels, which is inconsistent with the layout of the wreck at the Iron Steamer Pier. The *Mendota* had many of the same characteristics as the *Pevensey*, and the two ships could easily have been confused when seen from the same angle as photos # 1 and 2. However, the misplacement of the smokestack as seen in the third photo is undeniable proof that this is not a photo of the *S.S. Pevensey*.

The fourth photo below also shows one main 100-pounder Parrot and two smaller guns on the upper deck. We know for sure that the *Pevensey* was not armed.<sup>2</sup>

Photo # NH 59439 Crewmen & 100-pdr rifled gun on USS Mendota, circa 1864-65



Since photo #3 from Brady's Collection shows the same ship being named the *USS Mendota* as in the other photos, *the* connection is made. *We* have shown both photos once again for the reader's own analysis.

---

<sup>2</sup> Photo of deck of *USS Mendota*, photo # NH 59439, Brady Photographic Collection, 1864-65, LOC, Washington.

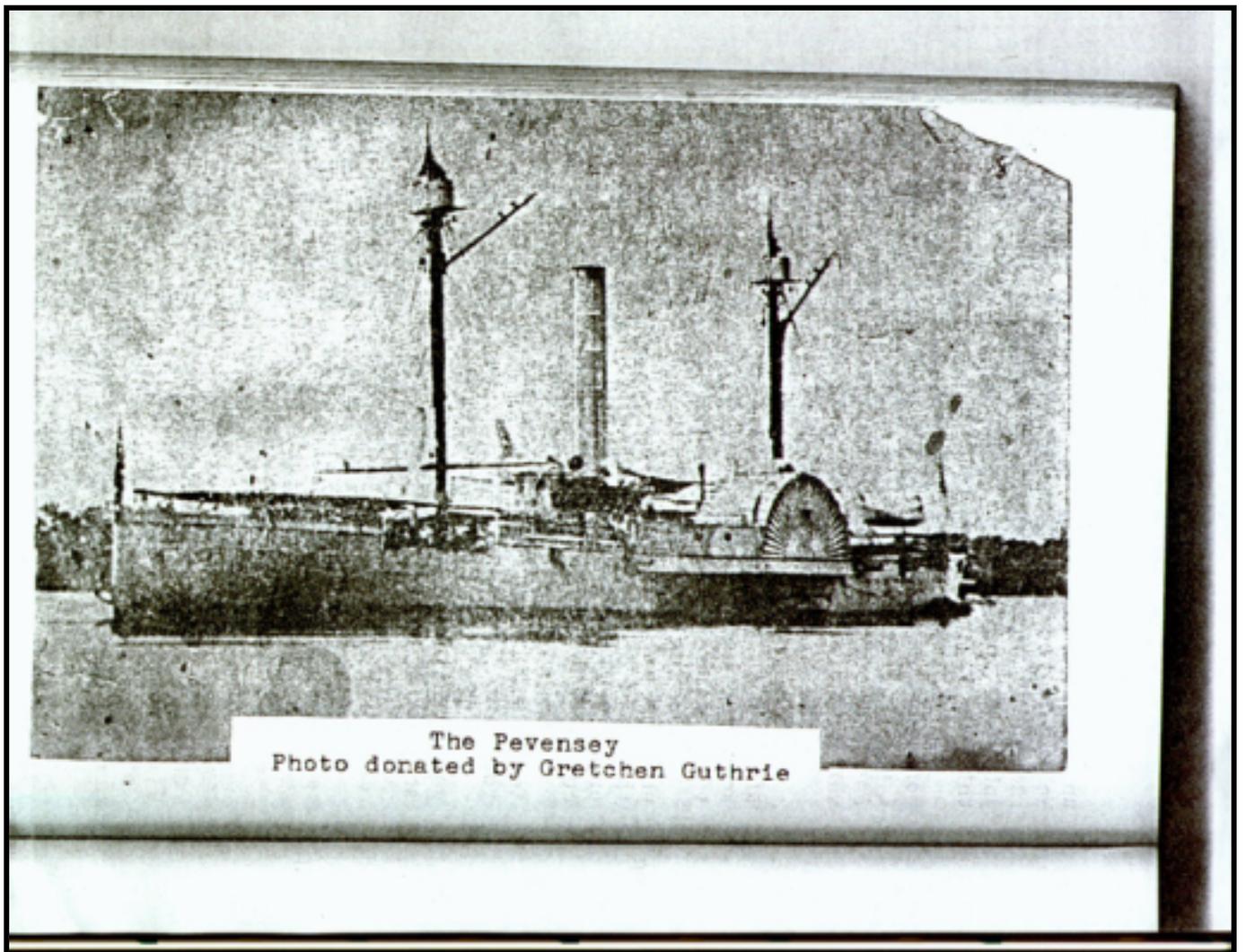


Photo # 1: Copied from a photo hanging in the *Sanitary Restaurant and Fish Market*, Morehead City, NC.

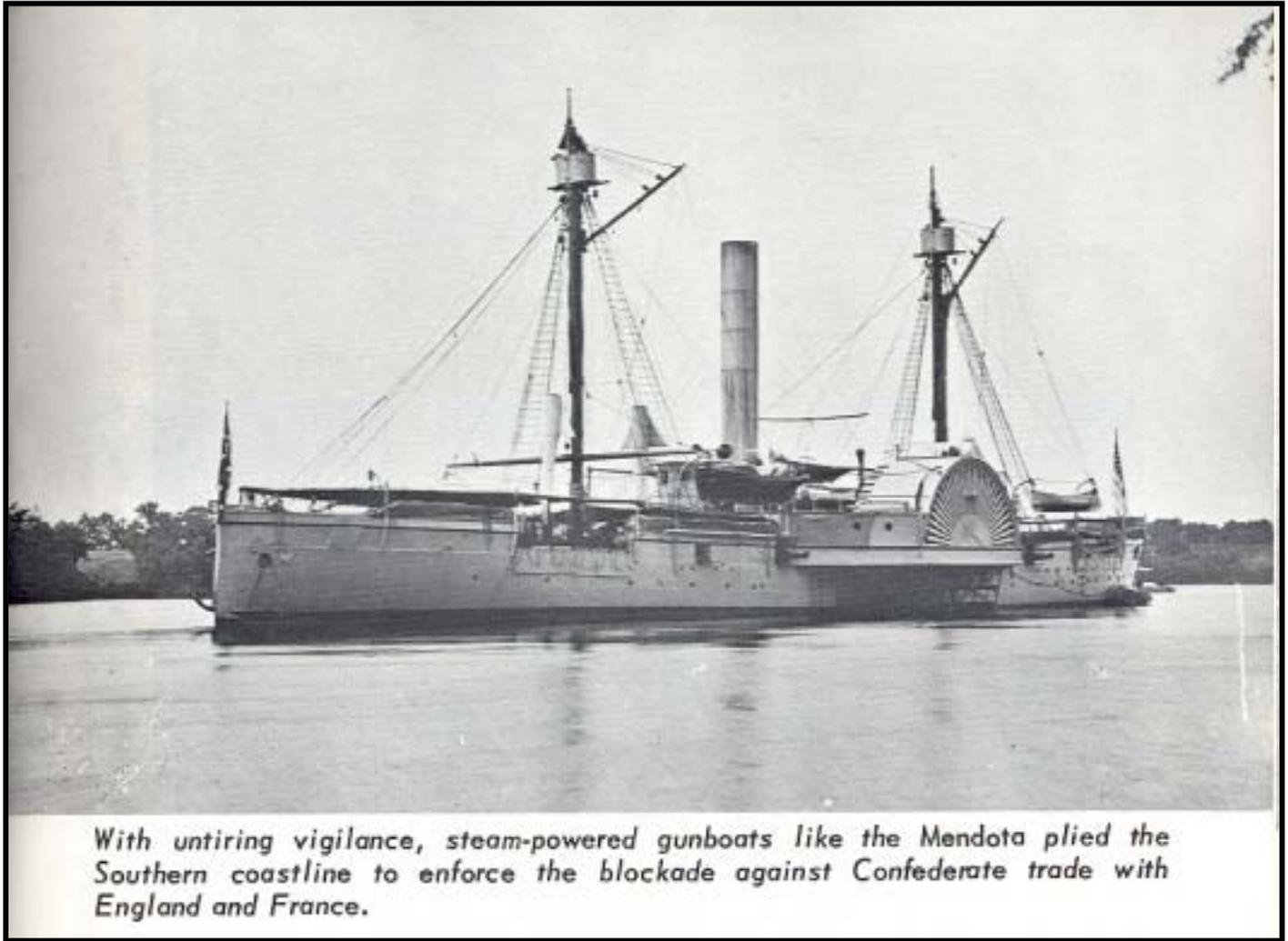


Photo taken from *Civil War Handbook*<sup>3</sup> of the *Mendota*.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Civil War Handbook*, William H. Price, L.B. Prince Co. Inc. Fairfax, VA, 1961

