Samples of illustrated eBook FOR SALE are being prepared, and coming soon.

6: Sam yr Alabama .

Gan T. Meirion Hughes.

Fel "Sam yr Alabama" yr adwaenid Samuel Roberts, brodor o Gaernarfon a ymfudodd yn wr ifanc i Awstralia, ac a dreuliodd 5 mlynedd ym Melbourne. Yn 1862, ac yntau yn tynnu at ei 30ain oed fe benderfynodd hwylio i Boston, U.D.A. Ni wyddys beth oedd ei fwriad o fynd i'r Amerig bryd hynny, a'r wlad honno yng nghanol Rhyfel Cartref ffyrnig rhwng y De a'r Gogledd, a'r gwir yw nad yw ei gymhelliad bellach o bwys gan na chyrhaeddodd ben ei daith.

Ymosodwyd ar ei long gan un o longau arfog Conffederasiwn Taleithiau'r De, y CSS Alabama ac fe'i gwnaed yn garcharor a'i ddodi mewn cyffion am rai wythnosau. Roedd 48 o garcharorion ar yr Alabama, ac yn eu mysg 4 Cymro arall: John Roberts, Traeth Coch, Môn, Thomas Williams a Lieutenant Morris, y ddau o Gaernarfon, a gwr o'r enw Hughes o Gaergybi. Yn ddiweddarach fe'u rhyddhawyd ar yr amod eu bod yn dod yn aelodau o'r criw, a dyna fu tynged Sam a'i gyfeillion am 13mis.

Llong gymharol newydd oedd yr Alabama, a adeiladwyd gan Laird ym Mhenbedw ar lannau'r Merswy yn 1861, yn fuan wedi i'r Rhyfel Cartref dorri allan yn yr U.D.A. Roedd arweinwyr y Conffederasiwn yn awyddus i brynu llongau ar gyfer eu llynges ac i'r pwrpas hwnnw anfonwyd ysbiwyr i Brydain i brynu llongau hen a newydd y gellid eu haddasu yn llongau rhyfel. Ni fyddai wedi bod yn bosib iddynt archebu llongau arfog gan fod cytundeb rhwng yr U.D.A. a Phrydain yn gwahardd gwerthu arfau o unrhyw fath i'r Conffederasiwn. Un o'r ysbiwyr hynny oedd gwr o'r enw James Bulloch, cyn

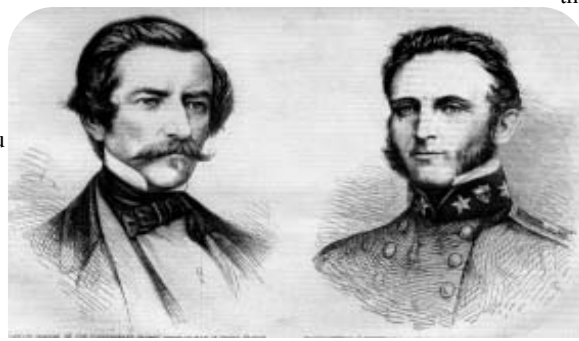
6: Sam of the Alabama.

By T. Meirion Hughes.

It was as Sam of the Alabama that Samuel Roberts, a native of Caernarfon, was known locally. As a young man he had emigrated to Australia and spent 5 years in Melbourne. Then in 1862, when he was approaching his 30th birthday, he decided to sail to Boston in the U.S.A. It is not known what made him leave at a time when America was engaged in a bloody Civil War between North and South, and his reason would have been purely academic as he did not reach his intended destination.

The ship Sam was on was attacked by an armed Southern Confederate Steam Ship, the CSS Alabama, and he was taken prisoner and held for several weeks. There were 48 prisoners in all and amongst them 4 North Walians: John Roberts, Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey, Thomas Williams and Lieutenant Morris of Caernarfon, and a man named Hughes from Holyhead. Later they were released on condition that they became members of the crew. Sam and a friend remained on board for 13 months.

The Alabama was a comparatively new ship, built by Lairds of Birkenhead on the shores of the Mersey in 1861, shortly after the American Civil War broke out. The Confederate leaders were anxious to buy ships for their Navy, and had sent spies to Britain to purchase both old and new ships that could be converted to warships. It would not have been possible for them to buy armed vessels as there was an agreement between Britain and America forbidding the sale of arms to



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