

# The Windjammer, 1930

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The film, released in 1930 and directed by JOC Orton, is based upon the book by A.J.Villiers "By Way of Good Hope". The book comprised a record of his adventurous 5 month voyage from Wallaroo to Queenstown, via Cape of Good Hope, South America to Queenstown, Ireland and the film adaptation includes A.J.Villier's spectacular photographs taken on that voyage. 'The story deals with the everyday life of the crew at sea. Nothing has been exaggerated, nothing diminished, and the film is thus a true record of a great era of nautical history.' (page 4, © 1930) Prior to the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 vessels, small as well as commercial boats such as Windjammers, took the Great Circle Route south of the Cape of Good Hope, venturing into the cold Southern Ocean and attempting to 'thread the eye of the needle', to pass through the narrow entrance into Bass Strait and on to Melbourne and Sydney. The film begins in the small Australian port of Wallaroo where lies the three-masted Windjammer "Grace Harwar" - at the time of shooting one of the few ocean-going sailing ships still afloat.....

PRO PATRIA Presents

## The Windjammer

One of the All-Talking productions  
From the book "BY WAY OF CAPE HORN"  
by A.J.VILLIERS.



Directed by JOHN ORTON

Dialogue Sea Stories  
A. P. Herbert A. J. Villiers

Photography  
J. Parker

Artistic Director  
A. Woods F. S. Legg E. Baird

Music by Hermann Lohr

Arranged by W. Hodgson

Recorded on Kunglin by W. Birch

The Windjammer Grace Harwar

### A Saga of the Sea

"THE WINDJAMMER" is a saga of the sea in the days of sail and of the glories of the great white-winged ships which, years ago, were to be seen in every port and on every sea up and down the world, but which are now, alas, almost non-existent. The "Grace Harwar," the old sailing ship seen in the film, is, in fact, the last of the full-rigged Cape Horn "windjammers."

The story deals with the everyday life of the crew at sea. Nothing has been exaggerated, nothing diminished, and the film is thus a true record of a great era of nautical history.



The Crew of "The Windjammer"

Played by

Tony Bruce	Michael Hogan
Hal Gordon	R. Travers
J. Barker	J. Cunningham
Hal Booth	P. Russell
C. Christie	G. Thomas
H. Hanson	S. Christie
Gordon Craig	C. Levey



### The Story of "THE WINDJAMMER"

In the small Australian port of Wallaroo lies the three-masted windjammer "Grace Harwar" - one of the few remaining ocean-going sailing ships afloat. Jack Mitchell, a young Englishman, down and out, and wanting badly to get home, sees her in the evening, goes aboard, and signs on before the mast. Owing to his ability to play the mandoline, he gains a slight prestige with the crew to the disappointment of Bert Hodges, a cookery who has hitherto been regarded as the "center of the ship" through his prowess on the mandoline. Old Bert, the only experienced seaman of a crew of comparatively young men, resents the latter's intrusion in his sphere, and his suspicious forebodings begin to have their effect on Jack's mind.

Jack, being rather fatigued, is made the ridiculous gift of a sea, but his spirits are revived by the thought that every day brings the ship nearer home. As they approach the Horn the weather becomes worse and worse, the air on sea and many men, and for days on end there is not a dry spot on board. At length, however, the Horn is gone, and they approach the equator of the Tropic, the crew and landing becomes less intricate and quiet as the crew have more time to develop. Jack has a photograph of a girl by whom he was turned down in Melbourne, and Bert is always asking for a look at the only feminine indulgence. Jack soon tires of this and refuses, thus arousing Bert's hostility. Bert has then to be contented with gazing at the last survivor, "Baking Belle," the property of Alf, an Australian. Before long Alf makes his bathing tub to the negro cook for a flour cake and the picture is transferred to the galley. The fo'c'sle is then left with no femininity, an unalloyed catastrophe. Bert, in despair, opens Jack's sea-chest, takes out his picture, and is going to hang it in a place Jack comes from the fo'c'sle. He sees what is happening and hurriedly retreats to a stateroom with his personal belongings. A fight ensues, wherein Bert's right hand is badly cut. It is an unpropitious moment, as Jack having knocked his dinner, that there is immediately recognized, Bert declaring that he "didn't know Gustie led it in." This reconciliation is further strengthened by the fact that Bert and Jack are the only members of the crew possessing musical instruments.

The ship is now nearing home and the inches are shranked up in readiness. Then, one night, out for outside the Channel, there is a terrible storm. Bert, who is sitting in the fo'c'sle watching Jack, sees his name on a table, receives orders to go aloft and attend to a rigging on the fore-topgallant yard. Jack, seeing that Bert's hand is hurting him, volunteers to do the job, and runs from the fo'c'sle, just after he has gone up on deck the others suddenly realize that the two sailors, who had been using to cover his name, and being crossed on the table. Bert rushes up after him, only to find that Jack is already far above the deck working his way along the heavy rigging, led blind by the wind and rain. While he is attempting to the galley, the foretopgallant breaks and he falls to the deck, where he is instantly killed.

The next day he is buried at sea, and his belongings, according to the custom of the sea, are scattered to the crew. Bert being the mandoline. These days leave the ship docks in London, and the crew are paid off. As it were, Bert turns to the ship's steward, entering into conversation with a solid portland who, on hearing the various details of the ship's mission to sea, because more than once, and finally walks off in disgust when Bert exclaims "Good! I believe I'd do again." As Bert turns to go, the "Grace Harwar" is left by the waves, looking smaller and smaller with his slender mast and spars among the squall funnels of the smokes which surrounded her.



### Old Sea Dogs

An interesting insight on "The Windjammer," is the fact that the majority of the "crew" actually have sailed in a "windjammer." Their roles are lived rather than acted.

Tony Bruce who plays "Jack Mitchell," was discovered by the Australian "Equity" for his current production, "Call England."

"The Windjammer" marks his first appearance on the screen.



"By Way of Cape Horn"



"The Windjammer" is based upon the A. J. Villiers' book, "By Way of Cape Horn," (Geoffrey Bles), a record of his adventurous five months' voyage from Wallaroo, Australia, to Queenstown, via Cape Horn.

The object of the voyage was to make a photographic record of one of the old sailing ships. Proof that this object was achieved is shown by the wonderful perspectives in "The Windjammer."



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A Story of the Sea in the days of Sail....