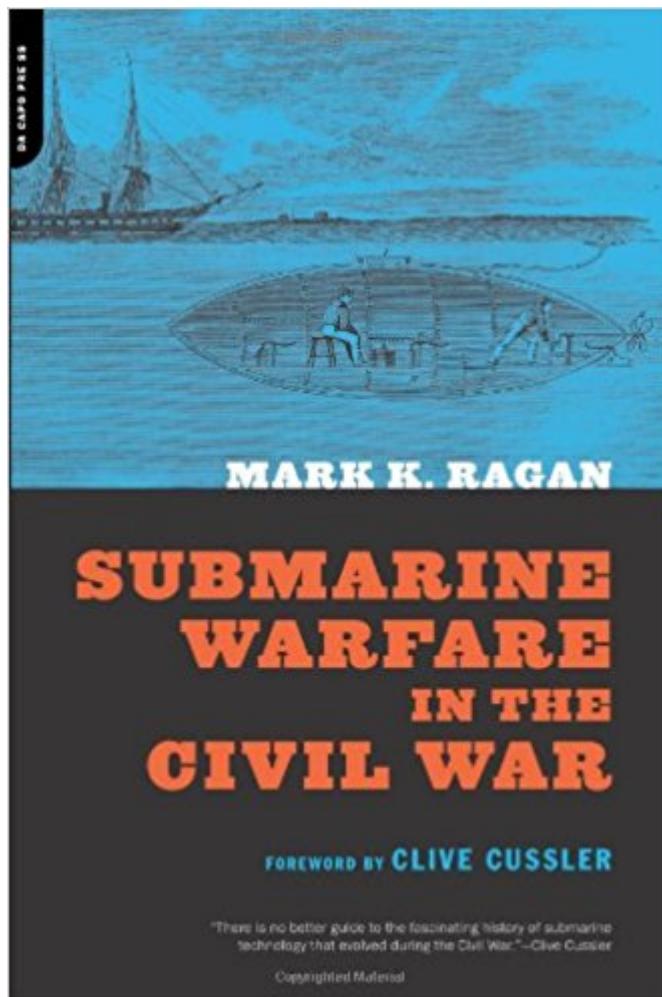


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# Submarine Warfare In The Civil War



## **Synopsis**

Many people have heard of the Hunley, the experimental Confederate submarine that sank the USS Housatonic in a daring nighttime operation. Less well known, however, is that the Hunley was not alone under the waters of America during the Civil War. Both the Union and Confederacy built a wide and incredible array of vessels that could maneuver underwater, and many were put to use patrolling enemy waters. In *Submarine Warfare in the Civil War*, Mark Ragan, who spent years mining factory records and log books, brings this little-known history to the surface. The hardcover edition, *Union and Confederate Submarine Warfare in the Civil War*, was published to wide acclaim in 1999. For this new paperback edition, Ragan has revised and updated the text to include the full story of the Hunley's recovery and restoration.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 336 pages

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## **Customer Reviews**

"There is no better guide to the fascinating history of submarine technology that evolved during the Civil War." -- Clive Cussler

Mark K. Ragan is the author of *The Hunley: Submarines, Sacrifice, and Success in the Civil War* and was a consultant on the TNT movie "Hunley." He owns and operates a two-man submarine and lives and works in Maryland.

This book is the final compilation of thousands of hours spent in historical ledgers and newspapers

of the Civil War period. Often hidden and covered up by the contemporaries of the day, the writer had the formidable task of digging into the little known facts of the two warring governments, and their achievements concerning "submarine boats" (also called torpedoes). It is an in-depth study that follows the general development and dire consequences of inadequate testing before deployment of what many would consider the first "Iron Coffins." One can almost feel the clamminess and dank cold of these underwater contraptions as they embarked on each somewhat futile and top-secret mission. With only a slight hint of success, these brave crew members surely were heroes in their own right. A well written narrative that fills many voids of seafaring and clandestine weaponry during the Great Civil War and a great read.

The American Civil War saw the first, or first widespread use of many modern weapons. It saw the first sinking of a warship by a submarine. There were also many other submarines planned or built. However, there is not a lot of documentation for most of those subjects. All we know of many is a paragraph on a scrap of paper, report by a spy who overheard someone or even just an order for materials and that is the weakness of the book. In many cases information on submarine projects just isn't available.

What a fantastic book! Two of my favorite reading items compiled into one book. Well presented and when documented evidence does not exist the author presents plausible theories to allow the reader to make their own determination. Everyone knows about the Hunley, now find out the other part of the story to give you the entire story. I really just wanted to keep reading this book and ignore my other responsibilities, it is that good.

As other reviewers have already noted, this is a fantastic book. The author has fully researched the subject and presents details of many little known facts from the first Confederate submarines which attempted unsuccessful underwater attacks to the first Union submarine that had been intended to sink the ironclad Merrimac (Virginia). The book goes far beyond the history of the Hunley and certainly is a must for anyone interested in the Civil War or the history of the development of submarines. Highly recommended.

great read. a fascinating look at a foregone era when submarines were but a novel idea.

A very thoroughly researched book on a subject that I have been interested in for a long time. I

enjoyed it very much.

While this is THE BIBLE for Civil War submarine fans, Regan makes a huge error regarding the history of the Intelligent Whale. He says crew members were killed in testing the boat (not true- not one person died on the Whale.) He also says it is at the Washington Navy Yard (it is not - it is at the Army National Guard Militia Museum at Sea Girt, New Jersey and has been since April of 1999.

See[...]

As soon as I saw the cover I had to read this book. What a contradiction of terms "submarine warfare" and the "civil war"! You would not think the two go together. I had heard the stories of the famous Hunley but are you kidding me, there were more submarines! In this book Mark Ragan tells the incredible story of the dozens of submarines that were created and tested during the civil war. I was surprised with each turn of the page as I learned more and more about that remarkable war. A must read for any civil war or submarine buff but even more important to any American interested in learning the true history of America!

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