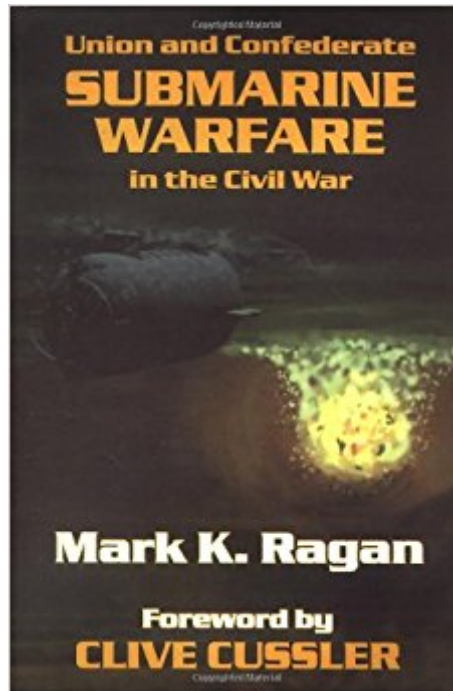




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Union And Confederate Submarine Warfare In The Civil War



Synopsis

The author, a consultant on the TV movie CSS Hunley, outlines the building programs, construction plans and underwater operations of both the Union and Confederacy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most Civil War enthusiasts have heard about the Hunley, the Confederate submarine that sank the USS Housatonic on February 17, 1864. Less well known, however, is that the Hunley was not alone in the water. Both the Union and the Confederacy built submarines; many were operational and patrolled for enemy ships. In *Union and Confederate Submarine Warfare in the Civil War*, Mark K. Ragan brings this little-known history to the surface. Ragan, who served as consultant on the 1999 TNT movie *Hunley*, uses contemporary letters, newspaper accounts, factory records, and log books to recount the early history of submarine warfare--from Bushnell's Turtle to the Hunley, from the Alligator to the Intelligent Whale. Many observers were enthusiastic about the new technology, describing it as "as formidable as it is economical." Others were violently opposed, labeling submarines "unchivalrous" and "infernal machines." For better or worse, the submarine was here to stay. Thoroughly researched, engagingly written, well illustrated, and featuring an introduction by Clive Cussler (who led the successful 1995 effort to locate the sunken Hunley), *Submarine Warfare* deserves a place on every Civil War buff's bookshelf. --Sunny Delaney

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.

"Submarine Warfare in the Civil War" was the best treatise on the topic that I have ever seen. Mr. Ragan did an outstanding job! It was a little "uncool" that the vendor's (from whom I bought the book) vendor drop-shipped the book to me showing an invoice price less than 10% of what I paid, but I'm not unhappy with my purchase. I not only recommend the book, but see it as a terrific reference book on a remarkably little known subject!

Love this submarine book! Beautiful pictures and great information. Found this book to be very helpful in writing a paper on submarines in the Civil War.

The book is very good, full of information on Union and Confederate Submarine development. Very interesting. Keeps you informed on each side with their early development of the submarine.

Most enthusiasts or casual readers of the Civil War are aware that a little submarine called the H. L. Hunley sunk a Union ship off the South Carolina coast. However, few know that almost two-dozen underwater vessels were built during the war by a variety of aspiring men of different backgrounds. Mark Ragan's *Union and Confederate Submarine Warfare in the Civil War* delves into a fascinating corner of the war, a corner often purposefully shrouded in mystery, as men secretly developed a new tool of warfare. He introduces us to innovators such as Brutus de Villeroi, Charles P. Leavitt, William Cheeney, John Halligan, Julius Kroehl, James McClintock, Baxter Watson, and H.L. Hunley, men who persevered to prove the usefulness of these underwater nautical devices. Each chapter covers a separate year of the war and this chronological approach works well to reveal the steady evolution of technology and the increasing acceptance of the submarine as a war asset. Using an excellent array of documentation, diaries, official correspondence, and rare submarine blueprints and photographs, Ragan does a wonderful job in immersing the reader in this rare arena of Civil War warfare. While spending a lot of time discussing the Hunley's history, ample space is still devoted to the variety of other submersibles the Union and Confederacy designed or constructed. Unseen in the standard fare of Civil War books, Ragan reveals the remarkable story of the submarine. In 1861, both sides already had submarines afloat. The subsequent years saw innovation and enhancements in periscopes, air purification (the Hunley crew could operate submerged for two and a half hours), engine proficiency, armament, and torpedo delivery. Readers will be astonished at the modernity of some of these submarines. Several spelling errors and rather

poor photograph reproductions are the only complaints in this very readable treatment. Despite the scarcity of documentation that existed, Ragan convincingly paints a picture of a new breed of innovators who arguably ushered in a new form of warfare.

An absolutely fascinating book on a subject much hinted at, but never until now discussed in one book. The story of the Hunley has been told before, and there have been many hints as to other boats used and operated during the war. However, information has been sketchy. As the author says, information regarding this topic is scattered. He has done a great job bringing all known facts together. I especially enjoyed the coherent description of the Hunley's attack. I was fascinated at the creativity of the efforts that went into building these boats and was amazed at the sophistication of the vessels, especially Hunley and Pioneer. The Hunley was far in advance of its time. It was a very capable submarine, dogged by human error and ill-fortune. It will be interesting to see if the mystery of its final loss will finally be explained. For anyone interested in naval history, as well as Civil War history, this book is a must.

Mark Ragan, an acknowledged submarine expert has brought to light fascinating details and facts I've never read anywhere else! I found this book to be engrossing and detailed and was delighted to read the details from Confederate Secret Service papers that had never been seen before. I recommend this book to anyone interested in submarines and/or the Civil War. Mr. Ragan served as the historical consultant on the Hunley movie from TNT that's coming out this summer. I can't wait to see how much comes from this book! I've heard Ragan builds and pilots his own mini-sub so I know his interest in the subject is genuine. I can't wait for his next book!

This is a great book, and any enthusiast on the subject should have it available for the excellent coverage of non-Hunley issues. The coverage of Hunley in this book is as good as could have been assembled at the date of publication, but the recovery of the Hunley means a lot of new information has been discovered since this was published. I'm really glad I have my copy, picked up in a Charleston bookstore during a business trip soon after it was published. In 2003 the author published an updated edition that I haven't yet seen.

This has to be the most thorough books on Submarine warfare during the Civil War. Having studied the history of submarines during this period, and having a family connection to the design of one of the Confederate subs, the St. Patrick, I thought I knew a lot about Civil War subs. This book proved

me wrong. The detail and depth of the book showed the incredible amount of work that went into the research for this book. It is a must for any submarine enthusiast.

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