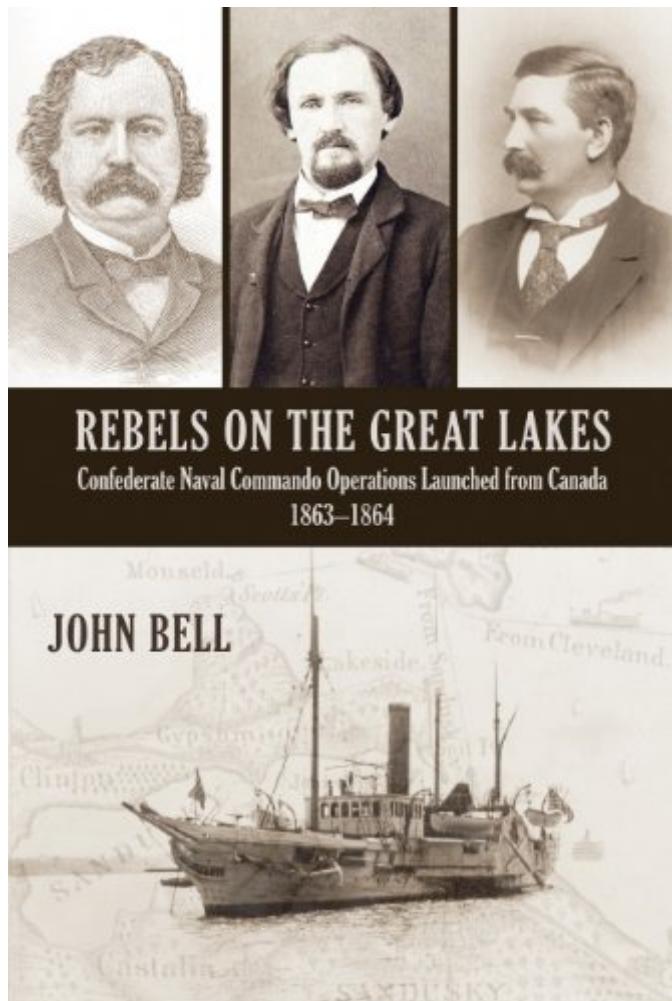


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Rebels On The Great Lakes: Confederate Naval Commando Operations Launched From Canada, 1863-1864



Synopsis

In 1863â€”1864, Confederate naval operations were launched from Canada against America, with an unexpected impact on North Americaâ€™s future. Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, a myth has persisted that the hijackers entered the United States from Canada. This is completely untrue. Nevertheless, there was a time during the U.S. Civil War when attacks on America were launched from Canada, but the aggressors were mostly fellow Americans engaged in a secessionist struggle. Among the attacks were three daring naval commando expeditions against a prisoner-of-war camp on Johnsons Island in Lake Erie. These Confederate operations on the Great Lakes remain largely unknown. However, some of the people involved did make more indelible marks in history, including a future Canadian prime minister, a renowned Victorian war correspondent, a beloved Catholic poet, a notorious presidential assassin, and a son of the abolitionist John Brown. The improbable events linking these figures constitute a story worth telling and remembering. Rebels on the Great Lakes offers the first full account of the Confederate naval operations launched from Canada in 1863-64, describing forgotten military actions that ultimately had an unexpected impact on North America's future.

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Customer Reviews

I wish I had obtained this book when it first came out. It covers much more than the ill-fated Lake Erie expedition alluded to in the title. I spent some months researching old newspapers and records that cover tangential territory, but Bell was there before me and could have saved me the trouble. This belongs to the "Confederate James Bond" genre of recent histories, emphasizing the role of Confederate intelligence operations, with lots of spies and cutouts, along with advanced technologies and secret weapons that might have saved the Confederacy's bacon if they'd just been developed a little earlier. (Reminds you of 'The Wild Wild West,' and maybe the last days of the Third Reich.) It's a very different, Steampunk-Modern, picture of the Civil War, far more compelling than the battlefield set-piece humdrum we are usually fed. There still remain many unknowns in this field. The role of the CSA network through Montreal has always been downplayed, yet it is the financial and intelligence nexus that ties together Richmond and Liverpool, as well as Halifax, Nassau, and the blockade-runners to Wilmington NC. It was not mere coincidence that J. Wilkes Booth was in Montreal before returning to Maryland, and it was not happenstance that the Captain Martin who was shipping Booth's theatrical wardrobe, suddenly abandoned ship and vanished, along with the rest of his crew.

If you are a history buff, Union or Confederate, this is both an entertaining and informative book. Unless you live in a Great Lake state, this aspect of the Civil War has likely slipped by you unnoticed. Interesting history!

It has been a long time since a book was so clearly focused on Confederate operations out of Canada during the Civil War. The first,Â Confederate operations in Canada and New York, was authored in 1906 by John W. Headley, himself a Confederate operative involved in Canadian-based Confederate efforts to create behind-the-lines havoc in the US. And of course, Headley's book was not strictly focused on Canadian activities. The second book,Â CONFEDERATE OPERATIONS IN CANADA AND THE NORTH., was written in 1970 by Texas Tech historian Oscar A. Kinchen. Although the Canadian-originated events are clearly covered, Kinchen's book also had a broader focus. Now, for the first time, we have a book that not only is strictly Canadian in focus, but also was written by a Canadian author. I used a number of sources for my novel [...], including both the Headley and Kinchen books. I was fortunate that Mr. Bell's book came out before I had finished my

final editing, to substantiate some of the previous information I had already developed independently. But in addition to assisting in some final fact checking, I found his writing style to be very lively. Further, the ability to draw on Canadian resources to round out the facts of the various exploits will be much appreciated by historians and authors in years to come.

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