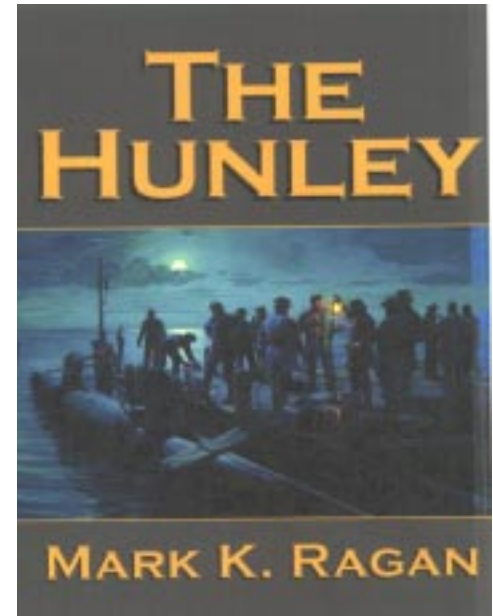


# The Hunley

by Mark K. Ragan

THE Definitive Book on the *H. L. Hunley*

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During the fall and winter of 1863-1864, a small iron submarine prowled the waters outside Charleston Harbor. Operating at night with only a single candle to illuminate its crude depth gauge and compass, it was not uncommon for this hand-cranked submarine to venture six or seven miles out to sea in search of an enemy warship. On the night of February 17, 1864, the Confederate torpedo boat *H. L. Hunley* became the first submarine to sink an enemy ship. It was a feat that would not be repeated until World War I, over fifty years later.

After more than a decade of research at the National Archives and other repositories in the South and Mid Atlantic, Mark Ragan has put together an exhaustive work on the *CSS H. L. Hunley*. The narrative begins in the small machine shop in Mobile, Alabama, where the *Hunley* was conceived. It ends with the vessel's recovery from her century-old gravesite on the ocean floor and the return to land of her final crew.

This volume contains photographs and documents gathered from private and public archives around the United States and brings the reader up to date on the history of the vessel, as it has evolved since the publication of Mark Ragan's first book in 1995, *The Hunley: Submarines, Sacrifice, & Success in the Civil War*.

**The book can be purchased or ordered at all local bookstores.**

## **About the Author:**

Mark K. Ragan served as *Hunley* project historian during the recovery and excavation of this history-making Civil War submarine. He dove with the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology during the 1999 investigation of the *Hunley's* victim the USS *Housatonic*, and worked as a diver on the night shift when the submarine was being retrieved from its watery bed. He occasionally assisted the archaeologists assigned the task of excavating the interior of the little torpedo boat. He holds a degree in archeology/anthropology and has published three previous volumes on the Civil War submarines. Mark Ragan lives with his wife in Maryland, where he owns Chesapeake Submarine Service, Inc. Email: [markragan@yahoo.com](mailto:markragan@yahoo.com)