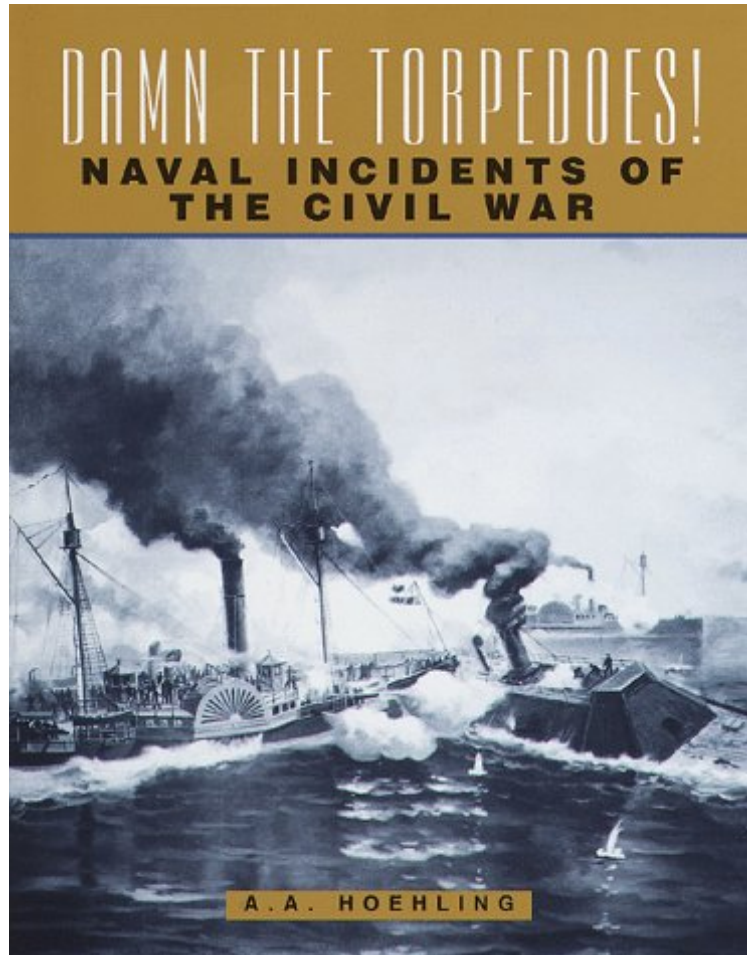


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Damn the Torpedoes! Naval Incidents of the Civil War

A.A. Hoehling

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A.A. Hoehling : Damn the Torpedoes! Naval Incidents of the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Damn the Torpedoes! Naval Incidents of the Civil War:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Dang the reprint! By Annie Van Auken The Gramercy/Random 1998 reissue of A.A. Hoehling's DAMN THE TORPEDOES! is unfortunately printed on the cheapest of foolscap quality stock-- with my copy, the pages have yellowed to three shades short of ochre. Inferior reproduction makes it difficult to tell if lefthand page illustrations are vintage photos, pen and inks or engravings. These faults of manufacture aside, textual descriptions of both famous and obscure naval incidents are expert and fascinating. Even long-time Civil War buffs will learn much from Mr. Hoehling's fine work. (199 pages, minus Index.) RELATED ITEM: To go right to the source, check out THE NAVAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Union Admiral David D. Porter. CONTENTS for "Damn the Torpedoes!": Introduction CHAPTER 1 - The Merrimack is Coming! CHAPTER 2 - The Fighting Ferryboats CHAPTER 3 - The Ordeal of Captain Newcomb CHAPTER 4 - The Hoax That Came to Stay CHAPTER 5 -

The "Invasion" of Portland, Maine
CHAPTER 6 - The Homicidal Hunley
CHAPTER 7 - The Man Who Saved the Ships
CHAPTER 8 - Damn the Torpedoes!
CHAPTER 9 - Fighting Man of the North Carolina Sounds
CHAPTER 10 - "Old Beeswax" and the Alabama
CHAPTER 11 - What Sank the Sultana?
CHAPTER 12 - The Last to Know
Postscript
Bibliography and Acknowledgements

This unique twist to the Civil War bases its emphasis on lesser-known incidents and their sometimes tragicomic outcomes. Presented is a fascinating overview of two fighting forces that stood on the brink of modern naval warfare. Black-and-white photos.

A.A. Hoehling is a first-rate historical storyteller and has chosen in this work a format admirably suiting his talents. His subjects include such familiar "incidents" as the duel of the "Monitoe" and the "Merrimack," the Union penetration of Mobile Bay, and the cruise of the "Alabama." More interesting for both the casual reader and the specialist are Hoehling's accounts of W.B. Cushing's sinking of the Confederate ram "Albemarle" with an improvised spar torpedo boat, remote ancestor of today's fast attack craft; and his gripping description of the engineering tour de force by which Union Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Bailey saved the gunboat flotilla that accompanied the ill-fated Red River Expedition of 1864. The career of the Confederate "submersible-H.L. Hunley" is a monument to the cold courage of the successive crews who "took her down" time after time despite her record as a man-killer. And from war's lighter side, Hoehling offers the tale of the Union steamer "Idahoe," which in 1863 received an unusual cargo: prostitutes expelled from the city of Nashville as a threat to the health and morals of the city's Union garrison. This work has no serious analytical pretensions. Nevertheless, Hoehling's anecdotes do more than many a scholarly account to establish the complex nature of the naval war. A chapter on ferryboats converted to gunboats highlights the need of shallow-draft craft for brown-water missions. Another discusses the loss of the ironclad "Indianole" during the Vicksburg campaign and shows how both Union and Confederate naval forces suffered when inexperienced commanders faced unusual situations. The concluding chapter, a first-person narrative of the cruise of the raider "C.S.S. Shenandoah," demonstrates the difficulties of waging a *guerre de course* with steamers. *Damn the Torpedoes!* is a casual evening's reading that leaves a pleasant intellectual aftertaste. -- From Independent Publisher