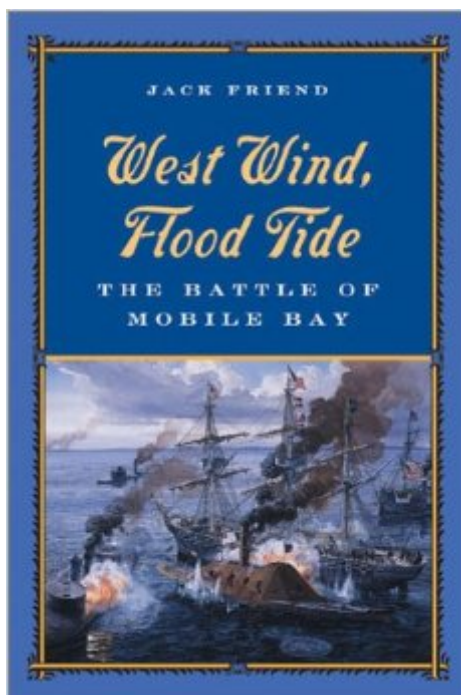


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West Wind, Flood Tide: The Battle Of Mobile Bay



Synopsis

Friend serves on the board of the CSS Alabama Association, an organization that funds the retrieval of artifacts from that famous warship, and on the Alabama Historical Commission, and has written previously about the battle of Mobile Bay in *Great American Naval Battles*. Here he provides a book-length

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: US Naval Institute Press (February 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159114292X

ISBN-13: 978-1591142928

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.3 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,094,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > History >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Jack Friend has written an engrossing account of the campaign and Battle of Mobile Bay primarily from the naval perspective. The book begins slowly with a review of the complex political situation, but this is necessary for understanding why the attack was delayed for so long. After setting the stage the author presents a long and satisfying account of the preparation and action. The narrative is richly detailed with first hand accounts of various officers. This is combined with descriptive tours through key warships making it easy to visualize where the participants were during the action. The actions of the infantry and artillery are not deeply explored--forgivable because the decisive action and most direct casualties occurred on the water. The narrative's tone is commendably balanced and fair to participants of both sides. The author has provided plentiful and excellent sequential maps of the naval action. The land action following the naval fight receives little more than summary coverage and that is a weakness. It would have been helpful to have more detailed diagrams of the forts, particularly Fort Powell, since it was the Achilles heel of the Lower Defenses. It also would have been wise to include the siege battery positions for the bombardment of Fort Morgan. In the interim, there is a pamphlet titled "The Defenses of Lower Mobile Bay" by Dale Manuel that contains

some diagrams and information about the forts. Additionally, "The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War" can be consulted for positions of the siege lines and batteries. Similarly, there is not a detailed table for the order of battle for the forces engaged, or a detailed breakdown of casualties of the land forces in the various phases of the campaign.

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