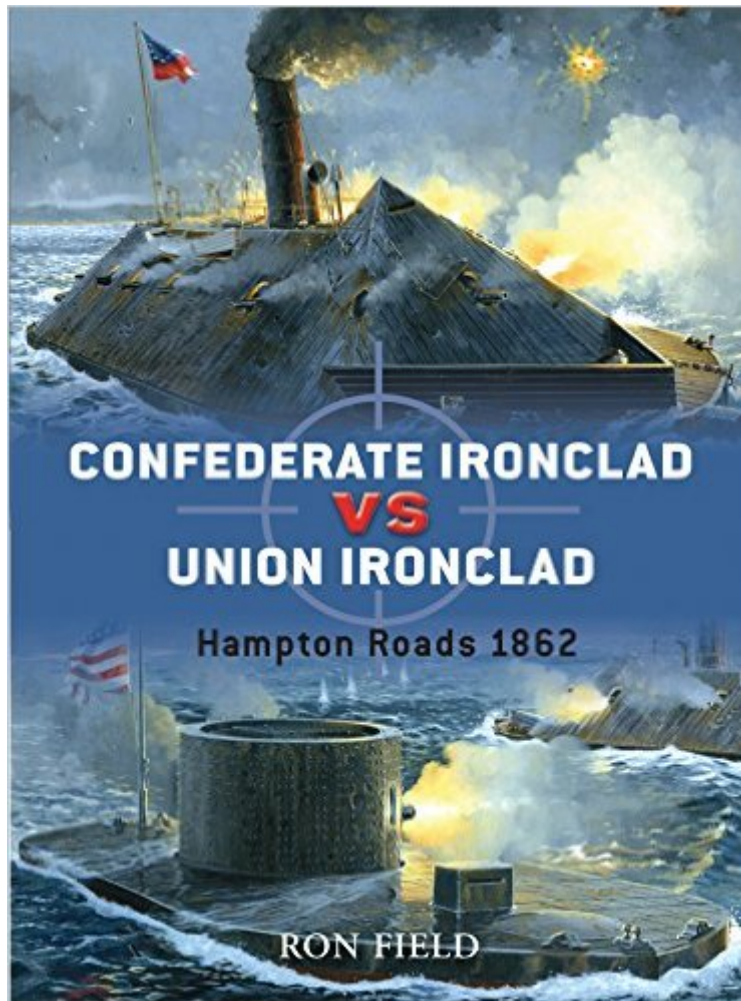


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Confederate Ironclad Vs Union Ironclad: Hampton Roads 1862 (Duel)



Synopsis

The Ironclad was a revolutionary weapon of war. Although iron was used for protection in the Far East during the 16th century, it was the 19th century and the American Civil War that heralded the first modern armored self-propelled warships. With the parallel pressures of civil war and the industrial revolution, technology advanced at a breakneck speed. It was the South who first utilized ironclads as they attempted to protect their ports from the Northern blockade. Impressed with their superior resistance to fire and their ability to ram vulnerable wooden ships, the North began to develop its own rival fleet of ironclads. Eventually these two products of this first modern arms race dueled at the battle of Hampton Roads in a clash that would change the face of naval warfare. Fully illustrated with cutting-edge digital artwork, rare photographs and first-person perspective gun sight views, this book allows the reader to discover the revolutionary and radically different designs of the two rival Ironclads - the CSS Virginia and USS Monitor - through an analysis of each ship's weaponry, ammunition and steering. Compare the contrasting training of the crews and re-live the horrors of the battle at sea in a war which split a nation, communities and even families.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Up front, readers should be aware that the title of this new volume in Osprey's Duel series, Confederate Ironclad vs Union Ironclad: Hampton Roads 1862, is misleading. While the bulk of the volume does focus on the battle between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia on March 9, 1862, the author does cover other ironclad vs. ironclad actions, albeit in much less detail. Since Osprey

has previously covered the battle in a campaign series volume, some readers might be wary about purchasing what may appear to be redundant coverage. In fact, this volume takes a more in-depth look at the technology and the crews than the campaign volume on Hampton Roads, offering an altogether different take on the famous battle. Overall, it is a good volume in the series and well worth adding to any Civil War library. Easily the best part of this volume is the 18-page section on design and development of the Virginia and the Monitor. The author has a knack for teasing out new facts even about these two well-known warships and offers a very solid overview of both their strengths and weaknesses. The full-page cutaway diagrams of each ship, detailing interior features, are superb. The author follows up with a section on technical specifications that provide additional information and color plates on the cannons on each warship and their ammunition. The section on combatants does not include any profiles as in other Duel-series volumes, but it does provide an insightful look into the composition of the crews on each ship. In the section on the strategic situation, the author lays out the North's need to mount a blockade to starve the South into submission and the Confederacy's solution of building ironclads to break the blockade.

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