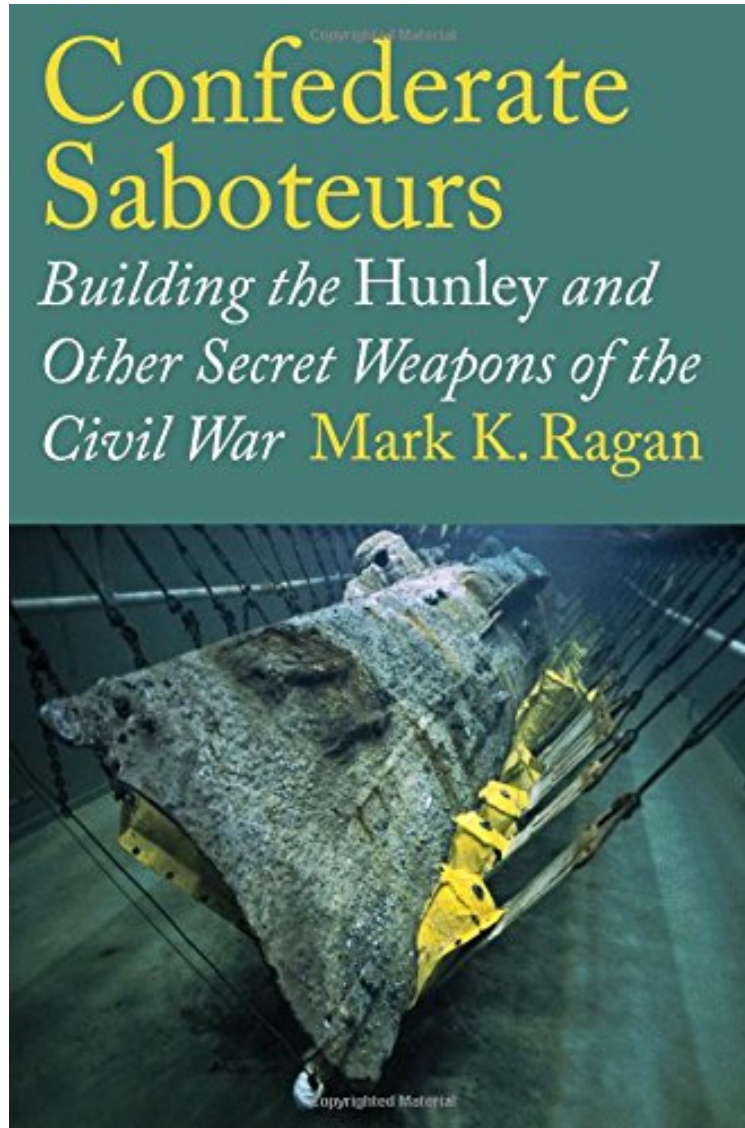


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Confederate Saboteurs: Building the Hunley and Other Secret Weapons of the Civil War (Ed Rachal Foundation Nautical Archaeology Series)

Mark K. Ragan

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Mark K. Ragan : Confederate Saboteurs: Building the Hunley and Other Secret Weapons of the Civil War (Ed Rachal Foundation Nautical Archaeology Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confederate Saboteurs: Building the Hunley and Other Secret Weapons of the Civil

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A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com
'Ragan, the Hunley Project historian and author of "The Hunley and Submarine Warfare in the Civil War", examines the work of Texan Edgar Collins Singer, a nephew of the sewing machine inventor, and a group of engineers, mechanics, Free Masons, and others, mostly older men not liable for military service, whom he organized (dubbed "The Singer Secret Service Corps) to invent new weapons for the Confederacy, which recognized the value of their work. Although more famous for submersibles, notably the H.L. Hunley, their most significant contribution to the Confederate war effort was their work on much the less glamorous marine mines, called "torpedoes" in the day, which sank 27 Union warships, nearly 40% of Union warship losses from all causes. There's a good deal of technical detail in the book, but Ragan writes well, despite an excess of qualifiers ("perhaps", "may have", etc.), and seasons his material with touches of human interest, biographical glimpses at the men involved, background material on events, and so forth. This is likely to be of interest to students of naval warfare in general as well as those of the Civil War. 'For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

Facing an insurmountable deficit in resources compared to the Union navy, the Confederacy resorted to unorthodox forms of warfare to combat enemy forces. Perhaps the most energetic and effective torpedo corps and secret service company organized during the American Civil War, the Singer Secret Service Corps, led by Texan inventor and entrepreneur Edgar Collins Singer, developed and deployed submarines, underwater weaponry, and explosive devices. The group's main government-financed activity, which eventually led to other destructive inventions such as the Hunley submarine and behind-enemy-line railroad sabotage, was the manufacture and deployment of an underwater contact mine. During the two years the Singer group operated, several Union gunboats, troop transports, supply trains, and even the famous ironclad monitor Tecumseh fell prey to its inventions. In *Confederate Saboteurs: Building the Hunley and Other Secret Weapons of the Civil War*, submarine expert and nautical historian Mark K. Ragan presents the untold story of the Singer corps. Poring through previously unpublished archival documents, Ragan also examines the complex personalities and relationships behind the Confederacy's use of torpedoes and submarines.

"A compelling look and insightful history of the intrigue surrounding the Singer family and their secretive espionage operations for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Mark Ragan reveals a new level of submarine warfare to conspiracy buffs. Nonfiction at its best."—Clive Cussler, American adventure novelist and founder of the National Underwater and Marine Agency