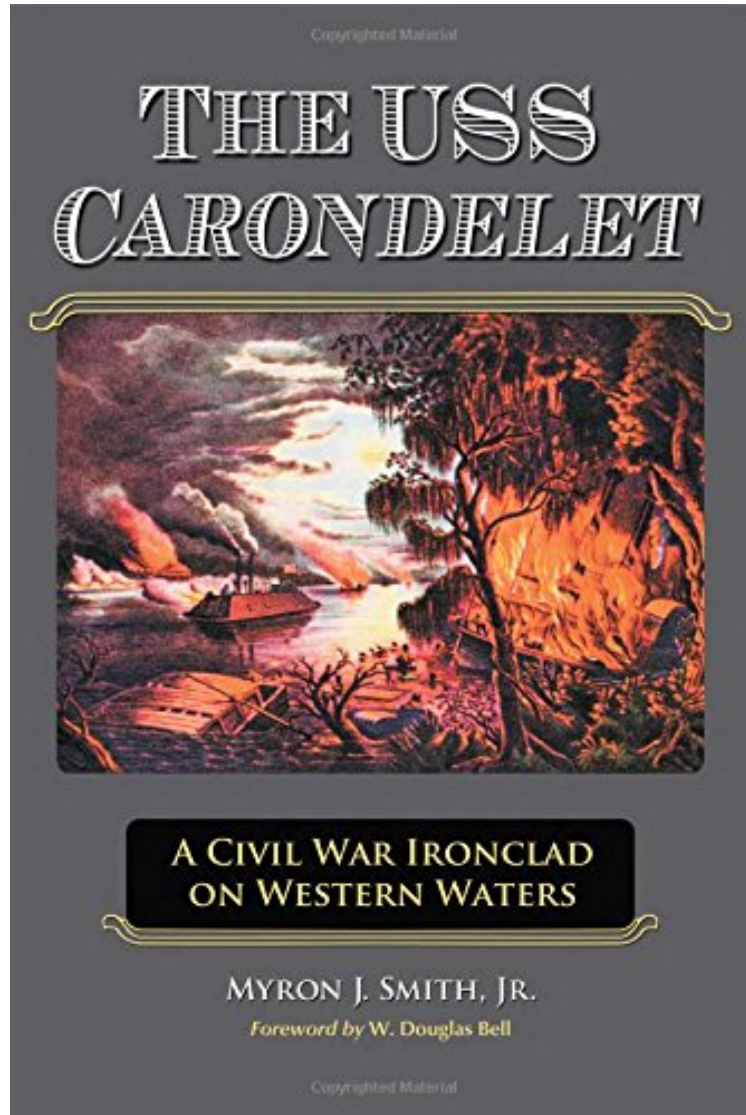


The USS Carondelet: A Civil War Ironclad on Western Waters

Myron J. Smith

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Myron J. Smith : The USS Carondelet: A Civil War Ironclad on Western Waters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The USS Carondelet: A Civil War Ironclad on Western Waters:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Unique Perspective of Life Onboard a Union IroncladBy KJAGThis book provides a brief history on the evolution of the ironclads, namely the Carondelet and her sister ships or "turtles," as well as key engagements and activities of the Carondelet throughout the war, and its history after the war, including the search to find it at the bottom of the Ohio River in modern times. The book also delves into the

boat's commanders and crews, including their personalities, responsibilities, and activities, and life on board and what it was like for them when engaged in battle. This is the strength of the book, as this type of information is largely lacking in most other books regarding the Union ironclads. The author used a variety of sources, including surviving memoirs, journals, and letters of commanders and crew, ship log entries and other official records, newspaper articles and images, and other references. Wordsmithing is not the best and the book lacks proper editing, which would have improved some word choices, flow and structure, and placement of images, and caught the many typos. It could also have been improved with more and better maps, and images of some of the other commanders and crewmembers, particularly those whose letters and journals provided so much to this book, vs. image of a Confederate cavalry officer who participated in one of the boat's various actions. Otherwise, the book is valuable in providing a unique perspective onboard a Union ironclad and I definitely recommend it. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Brent A. Dorman Thorough history. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommended By P.L. Stevenson This is the well-written story of what was arguably the most important gunboat in the Federal "Brown Water Flotilla." The navy's contribution to victory in the West has been too-long overshadowed by the comparatively uneventful Union blockade. The sesquicentennial of the Rebellion is a good time for interested readers to learn more about the role the Navy played at such significant western battles as Fort Henry, Island No. Ten, etc. The USS Carondelet comes highly recommended (and if you like this one, be sure to check out this author's study of the timberclads, as well.)

The USS Carondelet had a revolutionary ship design and was the most active of all the Union's Civil War river ironclads. From Fort Henry through the siege of Vicksburg and from the Red River campaign through the Battle of Nashville, the gunboat was prominent in war legend and literature. This history draws on the letters of Ensign Scott Dyer Jordan and Rear Adm. Henry Walke's memoirs.

"lively reading...the most thorough study of a Union ironclad that plied the Mississippi, Tennessee, Cumberland, and Red Rivers...highly recommended"--Choice; "anyone who has an interest in the western theater of the Civil War would do well to add this volume to their bookshelf. It is an excellent history of one of the most successful ironclads in the Union Navy"--Nautical Research Journal; "Smith has carved out a niche for himself as the author of books treating the ships of the U.S. Navy on Western waters during the Civil War"--North South; "worthwhile"--United States Naval Institute; "thoroughly researched...clearly written...a must-buy"--Civil War News; "wow!"--The Lone Star. About the Author Prolific author Myron J. Smith, Jr., is the library director and a professor at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee.