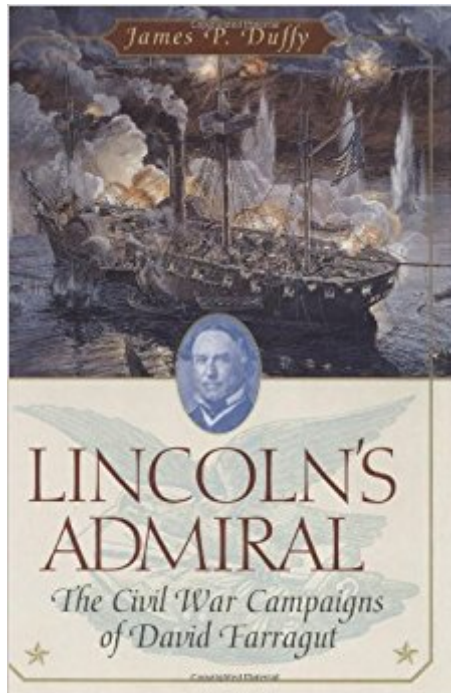




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Lincoln's Admiral: The Civil War Campaigns Of David Farragut



Synopsis

This book tells of the Civil War campaigns of David Farragut. Thoroughly researched and compellingly written, this book examines Farragut's command of the most daring and important assignment of the Civil War: the mission to recapture the vital Southern port of New Orleans. "Damn the torpedoes... Full speed ahead." Admiral David Farragut's bold order at the Battle of Mobile Bay has served as a rallying cry for the United States Navy for a century. Described as "urbane" and "indomitable" by contemporaries, and lionized as an "American Viking" by the Northern press during the Civil War. Farragut was considered gallant, brilliant, and humane by friend and foe alike. Lincoln's Admiral also offers insights into the Battle of Mobile Bay, arguably Farragut's most famous campaign. An expansive and compelling chronicle of Farragut's career, Lincoln's Admiral traces the brilliant decisions and wartime strategy of one of history's greatest military leaders.

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Customer Reviews

Duffy merely summarizes the distinguished earlier career of great Union naval leader David Farragut and then focuses on his Civil War activities. Farragut was indefatigable, enterprising, technically ingenious, and even innovative; indeed, he was one of the most aggressive naval leaders in American history. Many will be surprised to learn from Duffy how much time Farragut spent up the Mississippi after New Orleans was captured, how thoroughly he blocked Confederate supplies from the Red River, and how he might have made the siege of Vicksburg unnecessary.

The handling of the Union naval effort in Civil War historiography is generally not something to be proud of; Duffy helps improve that situation greatly with this book. Roland Green --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An admirably researched history of the long, successful career of America's first admiral and a popular hero of the Civil War, who is best remembered for his famous order in the heat of the battle at Mobile Bay, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!" To complement (and correct) the mainly army perspective found in most Civil War histories, Duffy (Target Hitler, not reviewed, etc.) presents a record of the frequently overlooked naval aspects of that conflict, as reflected in the career of David Farragut. Born in the South, Farragut went to sea as a midshipman when he was nine. While Duffy offers a summary of Farragut's life before the war, he is primarily interested in Farragut's Civil War years. He explains in some detail the often highly unorthodox strategies Farragut used to shut down Southern ports. And he explores Farragut's unwavering determination to overcome any obstacle in his way, including suspicions about his loyalty expressed by some fellow officers, aroused by the presence of a Southerner in the Federal navy; jealousies stirred by his early successes, which delayed promotion; and the opposition of bureaucrats in Washington, who attempted to reverse some of his naval strategies. Farragut, who held an unshakable belief in the necessity of preserving the Union (and who, having largely grown up at sea, had little sympathy for the South), always persevered. His brilliant campaigns on the Mississippi and his capture of New Orleans electrified the North. His blockade actions captured over 1,500 vessels. And his great victory at Mobile Bay against determined resistance, and under daunting circumstances, closed another Southern lifeline and diverted Confederate forces away from the defense of Atlanta. Duffy argues that Farragut's actions had more to do with the downfall of the Confederacy than some of the more celebrated land battles. A highly readable chronicle of a remarkable man, and an exciting account of decisive incidents in naval history. (25 photos, 6 maps, not seen) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The end of the age of sail drew American naval commanders across a blade's edge of risk: facing both boilerplate hulls and belching steam war machines. David Farragut's lifetime in the U.S. Navy appears to have imbued him with all the wisdom and courage of those who've mastered the sea before; salting him with the courage to repeatedly stare down great fortresses of stone, wood, and iron. Sent to sea as a child, Farragut came of age while still a boy aboard the legendary Essex.

Granted an ethereal gift of luck at dodging cannonball and smaller arms in battle: he later appeared at the right time and place to help unchain millions of oppressed southerners during the Civil War. He conquered his former hometown after bloody assaults on fortresses that had vanquished the Royal Navy a generation earlier. This narrative deftly uncovers the actions and that made the man, without airbrushing the details. He is shown to be human, emotional, and even afraid -- as his actions demonstrate immense courage, intelligence, and force of will. Every student of the Civil War recalls the actions described in this book. Few will understand them in their proper light without this work. It is an excellent and concise narrative, only failing in needing more of an editorial review of the last few pages.

This book is not a biography, but details Farragut's exploits during the Civil War, particularly the capture of New Orleans and Mobile Bay, as well as his actions to clear the lower Mississippi River. The author also effectively covers his childhood, which was spent mostly at sea as a midshipman from the age of 9, and how the lessons he learned during this period (including violent confrontations at sea with British warships and privateers during the War of 1812) prepared him for his future success as the finest naval leader in the Union. These lessons included the benefits of treating naval crews well and tactics in defeating enemy ships and coastal forts and batteries. It's interesting to note that he also had to overcome the suspicions and stigma of being a Southerner, as well as attempts by David Dixon Porter (whose father actually raised Farragut at sea) to undermine him. This book is well researched, organized, edited, easy to read, and includes very good photographs and maps that are appropriately placed.

I'm familiar with Farragut as well as the Battle of Mobile Bay in which Farragut is reputed to have said, "Damn the torpedoes! Full Speed Ahead." He said something to that effect in real life, but I wasn't so familiar with the taking of New Orleans or all the naval activity south of Vicksburg during 1863. This book answers those questions and gives a detailed analysis of the following: (1. The taking of New Orleans (which this book claims was the turning point of the Civil War) - I would agree with a caveat- Antietam in September 1862 was necessary too, just like Vicksburg and Gettysburg are traditionally thought of as the turning points of the Civil War- I could see an argument that after the fall of New Orleans and the Battle of Sharpsburg, MD (Antietam) the South was never the same again. (2. The book also covers a frustrating time during 1863 when the fleet could do little south of Vicksburg, Mississippi except close up the Red River and finally, (3. The beginning of the end- The fall of Mobile Bay and the defeat of the Confederate Ram Tennessee. If you want to familiarize

yourself with American naval operations around the Mississippi River during the American Civil War, this wouldn't be a bad place to start.

Accurate almost to a fault. The battles along the Mississippi and into Mobile Bay were stunningly in detail. Of particular interest were the accounts of ship types and numbers that engaged in the various blockades and battle. It is grist for a navy man's mill. Unfortunately, too much detail shrouded stories of the battles and the men who fought them. While difficult to know exactly what Admiral Farragut was thinking, the author probably guessed pretty close to home but failed to bring out the various levels of disagreements between Farragut and many of his fellow senior naval officers. It did account for the humility and often passivity Farragut exemplified in some of the river battles.

I love to read about history, and this is a great book about someone we don't often hear about. The Civil War is an important part of what this country is today, although I personally don't think that what is left of "Southern Culture" is in almost all cases the culture that caused the war. In other words, leave symbols alone....nut jobs can make anything into a symbol of hate. No one hated the Confederate flag until they were told to do so.

Lincoln's Admiral provides an excellent story regarding a very important part of the American Civil War that, I suspect, few readers other than the most dedicated history buffs view "control of the Mississippi River" was a major factor in the Union winning the war. Admiral Farragut's dedication and leadership indeed confirmed to President Lincoln that he had chosen the right man for the job at that critical time in American history.

Well done and the narrative moves along.

Excellent book on civil war and Federal Naval tactics. Their efforts successfully blockaded southern ports so that these ports were unable to supply the Confederacy. This helped end the civil war of 1865.

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