



# HL HUNLEY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

## H. L. Hunley Chronology

- 1580-1864 Europeans and Americans attempt to construct and employ underwater explosives and vessels for use in battle**
- 1773 American inventor David Bushnell designs and constructs a manned underwater craft, known as the American Turtle, which unsuccessfully attacks British warships during the American Revolution**
- 1805 Robert Fulton, famed steamboat inventor, also builds a submersible craft, named the Nautilus, which proves operational in peacetime maneuvers**
- 1861 The American Civil War begins. The North initiates a naval blockade of the southern coastline**
- 1861-1865 "Torpedos," or underwater explosive devices, are used extensively and effectively by the Confederate States of America against Union ships**
- 1861 At New Orleans, Louisiana, marine engineers James R. McClintock and Baxter Watson propose the building of a "submarine." Horace L. Hunley contributes much financial support to the top-secret project**
- 1862 In February, McClintock and Watson's proposal takes shape with the completion of the Pioneer, which some dub an "oversized cigar." In a training exercise the following month, the Pioneer successfully destroys a wooden barge on Lake Ponchartrain.**
- 1862-1865 Noted Confederate General Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard, a strong supporter of underwater weaponry, is in charge of the defense and protection of Charleston, South Carolina**
- 1862 Confederates formulate plans for using the spar torpedo, which is an explosive device positioned at the end of a long rod, or "spar," that is attached to the bow of an attacking vessel (The H. L. Hunley would later employ such a spar torpedo to sink the USS Housatonic)**



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- 1862** The fall of New Orleans to Union forces in April prompts the transference of submarine construction to Mobile, Alabama
- 1863** After continued efforts at building another workable submarine succeed, the new craft, which came to be known as the "H. L. Hunley," is shipped to Charleston from Mobile in August by request of P.G.T. Beauregard in order to shore up that city's defenses
- 1863-1865** Semi-submerged attack vessels, known as "Davids," pose a constant threat to Union blockading ships surrounding Charleston harbor
- 1863** In August, a trial run by the Hunley ends in the vessel's sinking with the loss of five men
- 1863** The Hunley is raised from Charleston harbor, and Horace Hunley personally oversees the succeeding mission. Unfortunately, in October, the vessel sinks again as a result of human error and eight men, including Hunley, lose their lives
- 1864** Once again the Hunley is raised. After months of intensive training a new crew, headed by Lieutenant George E. Dixon, attacks the Northern blockading vessel USS Housatonic. The attack on February 17, 1864 proves successful as the Hunley, fitted with a spar torpedo, sinks the Union ship. The Confederate submarine and its eight crewmembers likewise go down and are not heard of again for over a century
- 1914-1918** The Hunley's legacy is clearly revealed in the events of World War I. Technologically advanced submarines prove to be highly effective weapons of naval warfare which ultimately becomes a major catalyst for the United States' entry into the Great War
- 1980** American author and adventurer Clive Cussler and archaeologists set out to discover the location of the Hunley
- 1995** International headlines are made as Cussler and his team discover the resting place of the Hunley



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**2000 Researchers are poised to open and examine the vessel which promises to be one of the greatest "time capsules" ever found**

**Sources: Friends of the Hunley, Inc.: [www.hunley.org](http://www.hunley.org); James E. Kloeppel, *Danger Beneath the Waves: A History of the Confederate Submarine H. L. Hunley* (Sandlapper Publishing, Inc.: Orangeburg, South Carolina), 1992; Raimondo Luraghi, *A History of the Confederate Navy* (Naval Institute Press: Annapolis, Maryland), 1996; Mark K. Ragan, *The Hunley: Submarines, Sacrifice, and Success in the Civil War* (Narwhal Press Publishing, Inc.), 1995; Louis S. Schafer, *Confederate Underwater Warfare: An Illustrated History* (McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers: Jefferson, North Carolina), 1996; Philip Van Doren Stern, *The Confederate Navy: A Pictorial History* (Doubleday & Company, Inc.: Garden City, New York), 1962; A cooperative effort by the National Park Service, Naval Historical Center and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, *H. L. Hunley Site Assessment* (Santa Fe, New Mexico), 1998.**