



HL HUNLEY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

H. L. Hunley Timeline

- February 1862 secret trials of Hunley predecessor "Pioneer" in New Orleans. March, more trials on Lake Pontchartrain. Steering with compass proves ineffective. Results in surface and check technique. Lake Pontchartrain used to test delivery of explosive technique. Spar pole technology successful in deployment. Attacking barges and schooners. Pioneer granted a letter of marque to be used as privateers (only submersible) in civil war.
- April 1862, Pioneer scuttled after surrender of New Orleans. Hunley, Watson, McClintock flee New Orleans with plans of sub. Move to Mobile, Alabama.
- Horace Hunley backs the making of Pioneers successors estimated as much as 10-15 thousands use mercury depth gauge and toy with tow behind torpedo. Problem to shallow for sub to pass under ship. February 1863 attempt at deployment and sub sinks in unknown location.
- July 1863 Hunley launched Mobile
- First successful run July 31, 1863 on a coal barge in Mobile River, towed torpedos.
- The railroad used two flat cars to deliver the Hunley to Charleston, transport went through Atlanta.
- August 1863, Hunley arrives in Charleston
- Base established in a cove behind Ft. Moultrie, south end of Sullivan's Island.
- August 29, 1863 1st disaster as Hunley goes down for first time. Moored to docks, diving planes accidentally pointed down and sub sinks losing five men.
- Hunley engineering
 - Skipper- controlled diving planes
 - Mercury depth gauge
 - The crew member behind the skipper pumped seawater in and out of the forward ballast tanks



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- There was enough oxygen for 25 minutes of candlelight, but when tested it stayed submerged for 2 and a half hours.
- September, Horace Hunley was given permission to reman the sub with the original crew.
- October 15, 1863 a practice run led by Hunley went bad and sunk. All on board died. A valve on the ballast was not fully closed to the sea and all attempts to pump out the water remained futile.
- Hunley now nicknamed "the murdering machine".
- November, Dixon given permission to command Hunley sub.
- Mt. Pleasant was the location for the new trials of the Hunley.
- December 14, 1863, Hunley ready for combat. Charleston Harbor. Currents, shoals, outer ring of union tugboats. Floating torpedo continually floated to rear of the craft.
- January 1864, spar torpedo added to ship to counter drifting problem of floating torpedo. New location for harboring Hunley.
- February 17, 1864, USS Housatonic provides Hunley a prime target and seas where right. Set spar torpedo to the side of ship, beneath the water line and exploded it, sinking the Housatonic in five minutes.