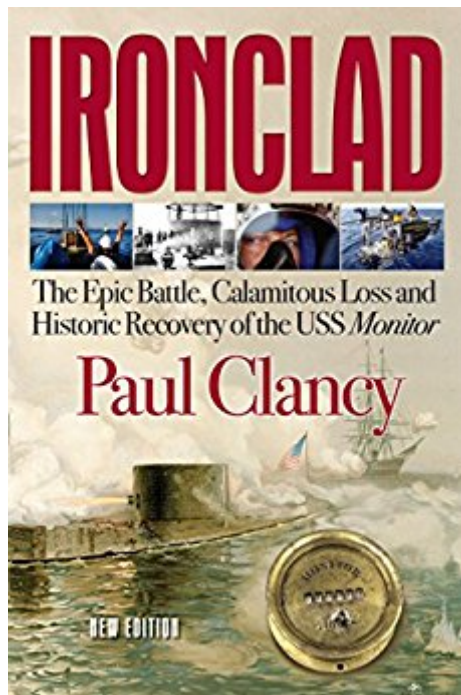


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Ironclad: The Epic Battle, Calamitous Loss And Historic Recovery Of The USS Monitor



Synopsis

The small, ungainly iron ship may have saved the union. Then in a vicious winter storm, it plunged into the depths of the Atlantic, seemingly lost forever. One hundred and forty years later, after a search and recovery mission, its ponderous iron turret reemerged, dripping, from a rusting grave, returning priceless bits of history. In *Ironclad*, journalist Paul Clancy weaves three great sea adventures into a single mesmerizing tale of life and death. Naval heroism, the cold heart of battle, a killing storm, deep water salvage, flesh and blood history—*Ironclad* has it all.

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Customer Reviews

Anyone who knows a little bit about the Civil War knows something about the battle between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack*, the novel ironclad ships that dueled in the waters off Norfolk in 1862. The story has been told many times, but recently there was a high tech twist as the *Monitor*'s turret and other artifacts were reclaimed from the sea bottom. The story of the ship and of the successful salvage operation 140 years later are told in *Ironclad: The Epic Battle, Calamitous Loss, and Historic Recovery of the USS Monitor* (International Marine / McGraw-Hill) by Paul Clancy. Clancy is a journalist who was a witness to the recovery of *Monitor* artifacts, and

thus can tell of the excitement and dangers of the dives, as well as of the large egos involved, but his look back at the revolutionary ironclads is equally fascinating. He has cleverly combined the stories, devoting alternating chapters to each, so that there is a satisfying build up to the paired climaxes of the sinking of the Monitor and its re-aring. The Union answer to the challenge of the Merrimack was found through the inventor John Ericsson, who presented his invention to the Navy's "Ironclad Board" in 1861, which approved the strange vessel. It was really more of a submarine, with only thirteen inches of freeboard. A Confederate sailor eventually confronted with the Monitor gave a description that stuck: "an immense shingle floating in the water, with a giant cheesebox rising from its center." That cheesebox was Ericsson's chief innovation (of possibly forty patentable gadgets on the ship). It was the 120-ton turret, a cylinder 22 feet in diameter, wrapped in iron plates, and able to pivot so that its two eleven-inch cannons could fire 168 pound shot at will.

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