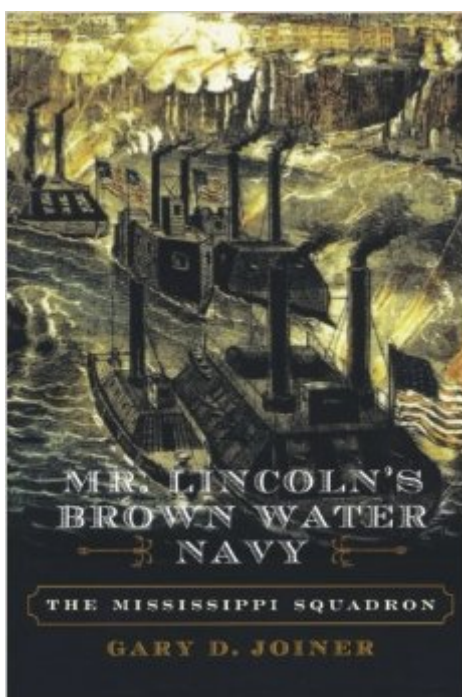


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# Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy: The Mississippi Squadron (The American Crisis Series: Books On The Civil War Era)



## Synopsis

The Union inland navy that became the Mississippi Squadron is one of the greatest, yet least studied aspects of the Civil War. Without it, however, the war in the West may not have been won, and the war in the East might have lasted much longer and perhaps ended differently. The men who formed and commanded this large fighting force have, with few exceptions, not been as thoroughly studied as their army counterparts. The vessels they created were highly specialized craft which operated in the narrow confines of the Western rivers in places that could not otherwise receive fire support. Ironclads and gunboats protected army forces and convoyed much needed supplies to far-flung Federal forces. They patrolled thousands of miles of rivers and fought battles that were every bit as harrowing as land engagements yet inside iron monsters that created stifling heat with little ventilation. This book is about the intrepid men who fought under these conditions and the highly improvised boats in which they fought. The tactics their commanders developed were the basis for many later naval operations. Of equal importance were lessons learned about what not to do. The flag officers and admirals of the Mississippi Squadron wrote the rules for modern riverine warfare.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Civil War's Western Theater. The book is a series of eight essays about the inland naval campaigns. The essays are arranged in chronological order so the book follows the creation and history of the inland gunboats used on the

Mississippi and its tributaries. The short, easy to read essays capture your interest and the book can be read in several sittings. The author made extensive use of photographs of gunboats, individuals and maps. The maps were good and produced by the author. I especially liked the photographs of the many different types of ironclads, timberclads, tinclads, rams and period engravings. This added a lot to the book. This book was full of details about Union gunboats and some of the unique units in the Mississippi Valley.

Book effectively covers the Union's "Brown Water" navy concerning the background, development, and major actions involving the ironclads, tinclads, timberclads, and rams, as well as the people behind their development and those who led them into action. Would have liked more technical details on propulsion system and interiors, crew makeup, and what it was like to live and work on them, other than they were hot and cramped. Improved wordsmithing could have made it an easier read. There are a few details regarding actions that I'm familiar with that appear off. Concerning Island #10, Pope did not move his men, transports, and field pieces to New Madrid via the newly cut waterway as stated. The newly cut waterway was used by the transports to bypass Island #10 to get to New Madrid where Pope's men and field pieces were already waiting, having marched there weeks before and capturing the Missouri town. Also, the mortars were not positioned and operated from Island #9. The drawing provided, which is accurate, even shows they were downstream and along the Missouri shoreline. There is no source cited for those particular details, so not sure where they originated from. Would liked to have seen more inputs or quotes from soldiers and sailors concerning their observations and experiences.

about the Brown Water Navy, unsung heroes of the Civil War. I've read hundreds of books on the Civil War, and have visited dozens of battlefield sites. This is the best book I have read about the Brown Water Navy, and I think at this point I have read them all, few that there are. A definite read for Civil War buffs, especially if you don't know much about the role of the Brown Water Navy.

I am bit of a history buff. After reading a book about my home town's (Covington, KY) involvement with the building / outfitting some of the steamboats used during the Civil War, I decided to order this book. While the writing itself is good, I do wish there would have been more/better maps. I am glad that I bought it.

One of the best books I have read on Naval operations on the western rivers. I liked the details that

Mr. Joiner put into the various designs of the gunboats and ironclads. The coverage of the operations and campaigns on the various rivers of the upper Mississippi Valley was of great interest. However, I wish he would have covered more of the operations on the southern Mississippi River.

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