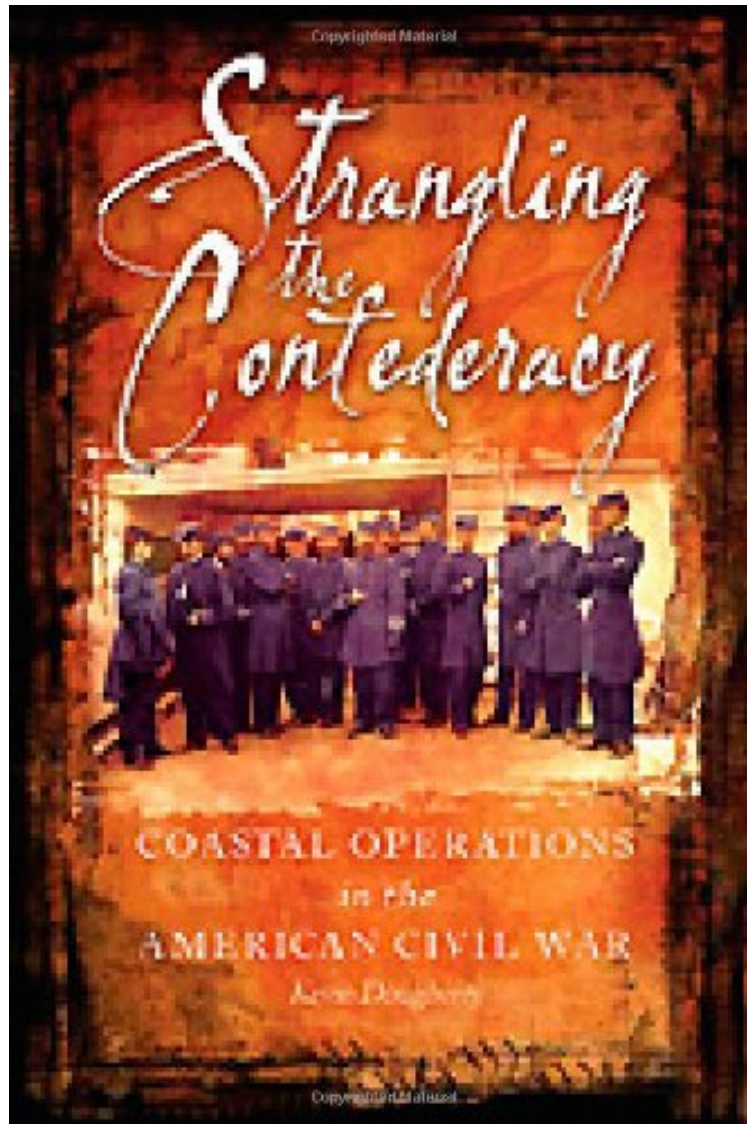


(Get free) Strangling the Confederacy: Coastal Operations in the American Civil War

Strangling the Confederacy: Coastal Operations in the American Civil War

Kevin J. Dougherty

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Kevin J. Dougherty : Strangling the Confederacy: Coastal Operations in the American Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strangling the Confederacy: Coastal Operations in the American Civil War:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A decent overview of Coastal Operations but..???By CTS 2631This book by author Kevin Dougherty works as a broad overview of coastal operations conducted by the Union

Navy/Army during the American Civil War. I myself am not that familiar with these operations and came away with a good understanding of the decision making and planning by both governments (most of the time not so good by the Confederacy), the leadership by the commanders of both sides (again, a lot of times not that great for the South), the forces involved (unfortunately the book has no detailed Orders of Battle), and the sequence of events. The book is divided into seven parts: 1. Short bios on Union and Confederate participants in the coastal operations, and the formation, membership and planning of the Union Navy Board in 1861. 2. The Atlantic Campaign 1861-1862 - Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina - Port Royal Sound, South Carolina - Fernandina and Jacksonville, Florida - Fort Pulaski, Georgia. 3. The Burnside Expedition, North Carolina, 1862 - Roanoke Island - New Bern - Fort Macon. 4. The Peninsula Campaign, Virginia, 1862 (shows how the lack of cooperation between the Army and Navy contributed to the Union failure). 5. The Gulf Campaign 1861-1863 - Ship Island, Mississippi - New Orleans, Louisiana - Pensacola, Florida - Galveston, Texas. 6. Tougher Challenges 1863-1865 - Charleston, South Carolina - Mobile Bay, Alabama - Fort Fisher, North Carolina. 7. The Coastal War and the Elements of Operational Design (compares the Union's conduct of the Coastal War with the modern U.S. military procedures and doctrine for planning and conducting similar operations). As can be seen, this volume pretty much covers all Coastal Operations in the American Civil War. The book is well written and concise (197 pages of text/233 pages total). But I have two major complaints about this work. First, it does not have enough maps (9 maps total) and those that are included are not detailed enough (as an example the first map, a Theater of Operations map titled "The Coastal War" does not include the Texas coast and "Galveston" is printed in the Gulf of Mexico with an arrow pointing west). There is no map for Hatteras Inlet (though there is a good Area of Operations map for the North Carolina coast), the map for Port Royal is ok, there is no map for operations in northeast Florida/southeast Georgia, etc. (there are no maps for a few coastal operations covered in the text, no maps for any Confederate fortifications, no maps for any related land battles [Roanoke Island, New Bern, Secessionville, etc.], and the map of Charleston's defenses does not even show Fort Sumter). My second complaint about this book is that after examining the Bibliography I see that this book is a combination of secondary sources only, and does not even list "The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies" (O.R.), but even more shocking to me for a book about Civil War coastal operations conducted predominately by the Union Navy, it also does not include "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion" (O.R.N) as a source!!! The book has 20 photos of participants and locations relevant to the text, the Notes section only list sources, and there are no appendixes. This title will give the reader an introduction to Coastal Operations during the American Civil War and the final chapter of the book is interesting and informative (turns out the Union Navy Board did a pretty good job using operational design like our modern military would today). Unfortunately, the lack of maps and primary research make this more of a book for the casual reader or someone just learning about these operations, but even they will probably want something more detailed. (I haven't read that much on this subject but for further reading I recommend "The Battle of Port Royal" by Michael D. Coker, and "Civil War on Pensacola Bay, 1861-1862" by John K. Driscoll). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. OK as an introduction. Brief, Concise, uses Secondary Sources. By Eric Calistri I picked this one up for \$5. It's worth that. But I have mixed feelings overall. It's a fairly brief (less than 200 pages of text) but still manages to give a decent, introductory level overview of the Navy Board, and the coastal operations undertaken by the Union. Very few primary sources are used, but the bibliography of secondary sources seems pretty good. Dougherty does a nice job of tying these operations together, and showing how successful the Union was over the period Sept 1861-May 1862. Of the 10 Major CS ports, they were down to 3 (Mobile, Charleston and Wilmington) early in 1862. The Union made little additional progress against CS ports until 1864. The blockade was made as successful as it was by combined operations against ports and port defenses in a brief period time early in the war. And then little was done for over 2 years. The book suffers from some organizational problems and repetition, particularly in the introduction and concluding chapter, but the meat of the book is organized and concise. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A decent intro. By C. A. Temm I bought this book on the assumption (yeah I know) that when the subtitle said coastal operations that it would go into detail about it. That assumption was wrong as what this book does is give a quick rundown on the MAJOR naval ops against Confederate ports plus a bit about the Peninsula Campaign and absolutely nothing outside of that. Nothing is mentioned of the hundreds of small raids, convoy duties, intelligence missions, counter guerrilla ops, refugee pickups etc that the Navy did throughout the War often causing the Confederacy untold grief while doing so. For anyone with little to no idea of what the Union Navy brought to the fight or it's importance, this book does do a fair job of highlighting the major ops. It also discusses in some detail the personnel of the Navy Board in deciding both strategy and division of resources which IS something not touched on in many references. This was a first in US military history and may be understood as something akin to the Admiralty of the Royal Navy. This was a highly successful planning group and one the Army could have benefited from greatly, by emulating. Until something better comes along then for a more detailed history of the Navy during the Civil War, I'll have to stick to Admiral David D Porter's huge "Naval History of the Civil War". Written from the winning side of the War, it lacks the balance of details from the Confederate side and sometimes overblows successes while minimizing failures but it's still the most encompassing of naval histories of the War.

A selection of the Military Book Club While the Civil War is mainly remembered for its epic battles between the Northern and Southern armies, the Union was simultaneously waging another campaign?dubbed “Anaconda”?that was gradually depriving the South of industry and commerce, thus rendering the exploits of its field armies moot. When an independent Dixie finally met the dustbin of history, it was the North’s coastal campaign, as much as the achievements of its main forces, that was primarily responsible. Strangling the Confederacy examines the various naval actions and land incursions the Union waged from Virginia down the Atlantic Coast and through the Gulf of Mexico to methodically close down every Confederate port that could bring in weapons or supplies. The Rebels responded with fast ships?blockade runners?that tried to evade the Yankee fleets, while at the same time constructing formidable fortifications that could protect the ports themselves. While Union troopships floated offshore, able to strike anywhere, mobile Confederate forces were kept at hand near crucial points, albeit in smaller numbers, to resist Federal irruptions into their homeland. In the final analysis, the Union’s Navy Board, a unique institution at the time, undertook the correct strategy. Its original decision to focus on ten seaports that had rail or water connections with the Confederate interior?from Norfolk to Charleston to Mobile to New Orleans?shows that the Navy Board understood the concept of decisive points. In a number of battles the Federals were able to leverage their superior technology, including steam power and rifled artillery, in a way that made the Confederate coastal defenses highly vulnerable, if not obsolete. On the other hand, when the Federals encountered Confederate resistance at close-quarters they often experienced difficulties, as in the failures at Fort Fisher, the debacle at Battery Wagner, the Battle of Olustee, and in other clashes. What makes this book particularly unique is its use of modern military doctrine to assess and analyze the campaigns. Kevin Dougherty, an accomplished historian and former career Army officer, concludes that, without knowing it, the Navy Board did an excellent job at following modern strategic doctrine. While the multitude of small battles that flared along the Rebel coast throughout the Civil War have heretofore not been as well known as the more titanic inland battles, in a cumulative sense, Anaconda?the most prolonged of the Union campaigns?spelled doom for the Confederacy.

“...discusses in detail the impact of combined arms, modern weapons(especially long range rifled artillery), and ironclads on strategy and tactics....useful entry into a complex subject. “ (CHOICE)“...an excellent short history of the blockade, its campaigns and expeditions, and its successes and failures. It is also an excellent exposition of how the elements of operational design for conducting warfare and their applications have not changed over time. The trick is how to apply them. Dougherty has produced an interesting volume for someone who wants to learn about the Union blockade and for students of the Civil War’s grand strategy and operations. It is highly recommended for both. “ (Civil War News)“...a dry, witty and ultimately educational account of Union coastal operations against the Confederate Army...” (Defence Web)“...a very well written overview of the major coastal campaigns conducted during the war. The author has excellent knowledge of the subject coupled with an in depth knowledge of the subject military history and procedures. In addition, he can communicate this in an understandable and readable manner.” (James Durney)“Even the oldest Civil War buffs will learn a few bits of new information...” (LONE STAR)“It came to be known as the “Anaconda Plan”. It was a simple concept: block all the major southern ports and render their armies useless....In the end the strategy worked. Like the anaconda itself, the Union Navy squeezed the lifeblood out of the South.” (Military Heritage)“For some time there has been a need for a comprehensive analysis of the joint Army-Navy operations conducted by Union forces off the Confederate Atlantic and Gulf coasts. . . . In this volume Kevin Dougherty, a former Army officer . . . examines the role of joint operations through the prism of modern joint-forces doctrine. . . . Evident rivalry and dysfunction between the Union Army and Navy notwithstanding, Dougherty argues that the coastal campaigns constituted ‘a major step in the evolution of joint warfare and planning in U.S. military history’.” (U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings)“...recommended to all American Civil War students, as it covers an area of the naval war usually buried in complete histories of naval operations and seldom addressed in a stand alone volume on the subject....I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of the Civil War blockade.” (Mataka.Org)“...an excellent short history of the main Federal operations that helped blockade the Confederate coast... very well structured... well written with a real feel for the period” (Wargamer.com)“a nicely written and tightly worded book summarizing the Union Naval/Military operations against military targets along the Confederate coast...” (Journal of America’s Military Past)About the AuthorKevin Dougherty is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel. Formerly a faculty member in the History Department at the University of Southern Mississippi, he is currently a Tactical Officer at Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.