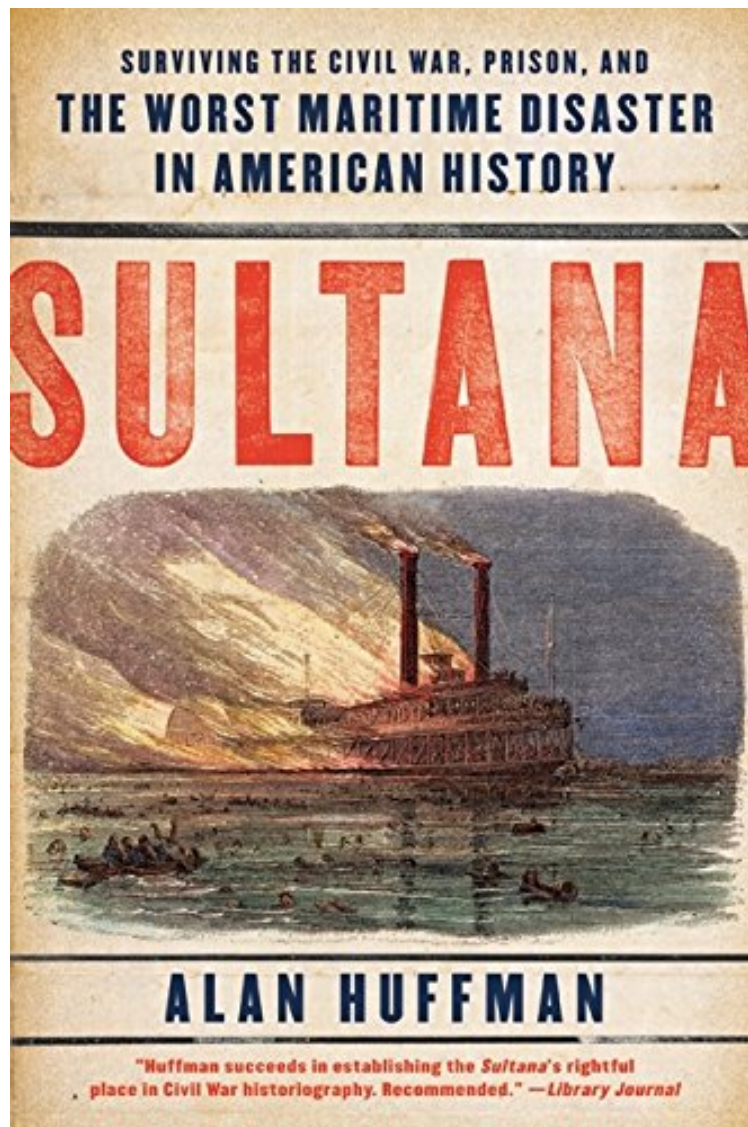


(Download pdf) Sultana: Surviving the Civil War, Prison, and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History

## Sultana: Surviving the Civil War, Prison, and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History

Alan Huffman

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#583825 in Books Alan Huffman 2010-04-06 2010-04-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .72 x 5.311, .53 #File Name: 0061470562320 pages Sultana Surviving the Civil War Prison and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History | File size: 71.Mb

Alan Huffman : Sultana: Surviving the Civil War, Prison, and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sultana: Surviving the Civil War, Prison, and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but different take on the history of this terrible disaster. He follows two men from Jefferson CountyBy ShawsParkTNHuffman's book on the tragic events leading up to and including the explosion of the Str. SULTANA is a thorough, but different take on the history of this terrible disaster. He follows two men from Jefferson County, Indiana through their experiences, first as POWs, then as rescued from the Mississippi River after the SULTANA'S explosion and burning, then as soldiers returning home as shattered by those events. If you are a Civil War history buff, this one segment of that awful four years you should read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A sad forgotten tragedy in American historyBy Zork3A detailed retelling of the disaster starting with the Union soldiers who were captured in the southern battle grounds, then taken to the horrible prisoner of war camps of Andersonville and Cahaba. Then finally when they are paroled and anxious to go home, the army overstuffs 2000 of them on the Sultana, a riverboat with sloppily patched boiler. The rest of the tragedy unfolds from the words of the survivors.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this bookBy John BertrandI really enjoyed this book.Huffman interwove stories and experiences of real people into his account of the Sultana disaster. I try to learn something new from I every book I read and I learned a lot from this book. The book covers so much ground within it's pages it is recommended to all Civil War buffs.

In April 1865, the steamboat Sultana slowly moved up the Mississippi River, its overtaxed engines straining under the weight of twenty-four hundred passengersmostly Union soldiers, recently paroled from Confederate prison camps. At 2 a.m., three of Sultana's four boilers exploded. Within twenty minutes, the boat went down in flames, and an estimated seventeen hundred lives were lost. The worst maritime disaster in American history, the sinking of the Sultana is a forgotten tragedy lost in the turmoil of the timethe war's end, the assassination of President Lincoln, the pursuit of John Wilkes Booth. Alan Huffman presents this harrowing story in gripping and vivid detail and paints a moving portrait of four individual soldiers who survived the Civil War's final hell to make it back home.

From Publishers WeeklyThe explosion and wreck of the Mississippi riverboat Sultana in 1865, which killed 1,700 passengers, mostly Union soldiers recently released from Confederate POW camps, is but the capstone of this engrossing survey of the many varieties of suffering in the Civil War. Journalist Huffman (Mississippi in Africa) doesn't even get aboard the Sultana until the last third of the saga. Before that, he fills in the backstories of four Yankee survivors as they fight in the battle of Chickamauga, go raiding with Sherman's cavalry and finally get captured and sent to the infamous Southern prison camps at Andersonville, Ga., and Cahaba, Ala. There they endure the torments of starvation, exposure, festering and maggoty wounds, predatory criminal gangs, lice and diarrhea scourge, Huffman notes, that was far deadlier to soldiers than bullets. Making skillful use of war diaries and memoirs, the author makes these quieter ordeals just as moving as the Sultana's doomed voyage, with its hellish scene[s] of hundreds of screaming people being burned alive or drowning each other in panic. Huffman fits the climactic disaster into a meticulously researched, harrowing look at the sorrow and the pity that was the Civil War. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Huffman succeeds in establishing the Sultana's rightful place in Civil War historiography. Recommended. (Library Journal)Huffman rescues the Sultana tragedy from obscurity and brings the people and events surrounding it to vibrant life...[and] chronicles the explosion and its aftermath in startling detail with a wealth of striking images...A short but moving history that effectively captures both the disaster and the soldiers ordeal. (Kirkus s)From the Back CoverA powerful account of a surprisingly forgotten tragedy of the Civil War A stunning wartime account of human endurance and adventure, and an exploration of just how much the human body and mind can take, Sultana follows several young Union soldiers through the Civil War and what was, for them, its unimaginably disastrous aftermath. We see them enlist and then almost immediately be plunged into a cascading series of wartime horrors: Battle, trauma, prison camp, and, finally, the sinking of the Sultana, the steamboat that was taking them back home. On an April night in 1865, the Sultana slowly moved up the dark Mississippi, its overtaxed engines straining under the weight of a human cargo that included an estimated twenty-four hundred passengersmore than six times the number it was designed to carry. Most were weak, emaciated Union soldiers, recently paroled from Confederate prison camps, on their way home after enduring the violence of war. At two a.m., three of Sultana's four boilers exploded. Within twenty minutes, it went down in fire and water, taking an estimated seventeen hundred lives. The sinking of the Sultana remains the worst maritime disaster in American history, yet due to a confluence of contemporary events (Lincoln had recently been assassinated and the war had ended), it soon faded into relative obscurity. Now Alan Huffman presents this harrowing story against the backdrop of the endless suffering already endured by its survivors. Using contemporary research as well as digging deep into archives and family keepsakes, Huffman paints a gripping portrait of the young men who made it home alive.