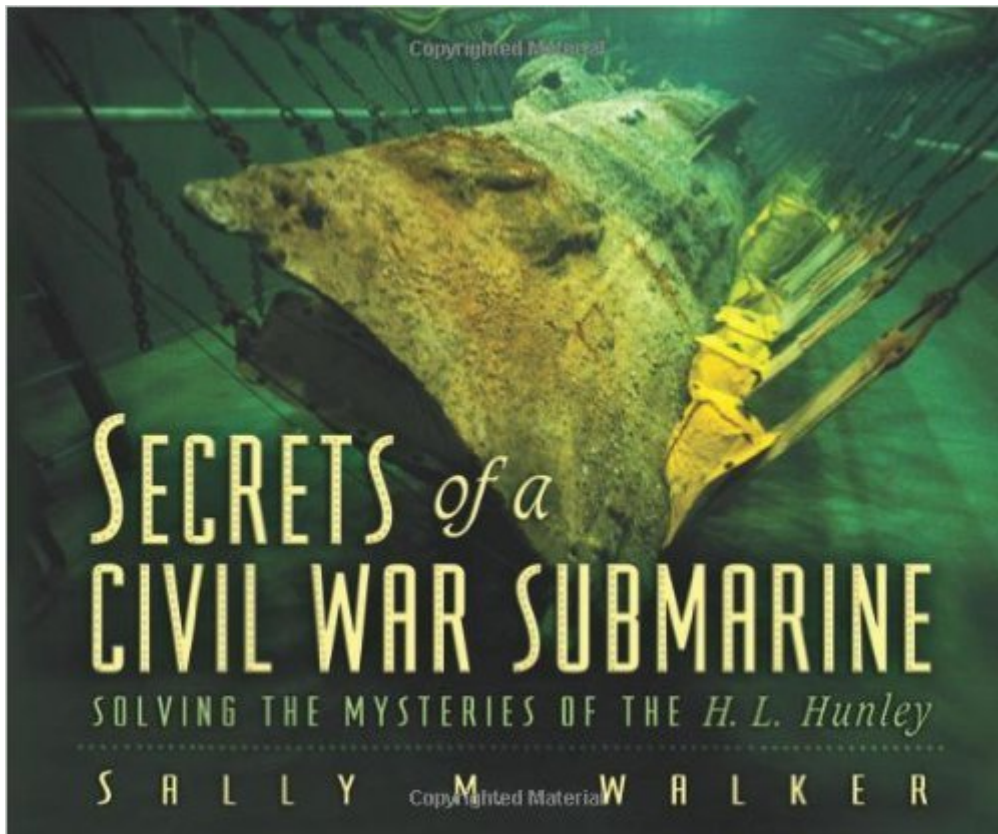


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# Secrets Of A Civil War Submarine: Solving The Mysteries Of The H. L. Hunley



## Synopsis

On February 17, 1864, the H.L. Hunley made history as the first submarine to sink a ship in battle. Soldiers on the shore waited patiently after seeing the submarine's return signal. But after several days, the ship had failed to return. What had gone wrong? In 1995, after over 130 years of searching, the H.L. Hunley was finally found buried off the coast of South Carolina. Follow author, Sally M. Walker on a fascinating journey through the workings of the famous submarine, its voyages, and the difficult obstacles that were overcome to recover, excavate and conserve the ship.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Civil War buffs, 21st Century scientists, teachers, archaeologists, and readers looking for a good "yarn" alike will be absolutely riveted by this book. In the most comprehensive telling of the H.L. Hunley story yet to date, Walker's extensive research includes a variety of primary sources such as letters, African American testimony from Naval Court inquiries, and family photos to highlight the Civil War era - the "first" part of the story. Next, through a subtle color in pages of the text, Walker continues the story in modern times, detailing the 2000 raising of the sunken submarine. Color photographs showing every step of the recovery and excavation (including new scientific technologies), and thorough explanations by the actual recovery divers make this a unique

"you-are-there" kind of book. A poignant end to the story is the facial reconstruction of Hunley's crew, and photographs of the funeral caisson taking the crew members to their final resting place in Charleston's Magnolia Cemetery.

I found this book to be very well written and researched on the subject of CSS Hunley and its recovery from the bottom of the sea. The book covers the development of this boat, history of its crew, mission and possible aftermath. Then the book goes on to the history of the search for the Hunley and its discovery and recovery from the ocean floor. Upon its recovery, the book uncovers what lies within the boat. (I used the word "boat" since that is what the submariners called their vessels.) I think the best part about this book is that the author writes down a lot of information without getting tedious or bogging the reader down with too much information. The amount of stuff revealed in this book proves to be just right for anyone to get into the subject and enjoy. The book proves to be well illustrated and comes with many colorful photographs that proves to be helpful and revealing. Anyone reading this book will come away with a very good understanding of CSS Hunley and her recovery from the sea and subsequent discoveries that followed. Highly recommended for anyone who got a slightest interest in the naval technology, Civil War era or just in the Hunley itself.

After seeing the Hunley at Charleston SC, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. How those sailors crammed themselves in this unproven submersible machine of the Civil War is almost unbelievable. It killed more Confederates than it did the Union enemies!

Secrets Of A Civil War Submarine, by Sally Walker, provides a nice, quick overview of the Hunley's history, recovery, excavation, and conservation. Targeting the late grade-school reader, the book is written in the style of and at a similar level to a National Geographic article. Any reader will enjoy it and come away with a good understanding of the Hunley project. There are a few detail mistakes, such as in an explanation of neutral buoyancy, but the main point is always delivered successfully by the text. I've been studying material on the Hunley since 2000, but I found several important bits of information I haven't seen elsewhere. The explanation of archaeological techniques as applied in the Hunley excavation is the best I've read. The book is nicely illustrated, although most of the photos have been previously published, and the interpretive drawings contain some fairly large inaccuracies. Overall, I'm happy to have this in my collection of books about the Hunley and I'm glad to recommend it.

SECRETS OF A CIVIL WAR SUBMARINE: "Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley" By Sally M. Walker won the Robert F. Sibert Medal and the Notable Award from the Association for Library Service to Children. Although the history of the submarines dates back to the 1620's, in 1864 the Hunley Submarine was the first submarine to ever sink an enemy ship, but the Hunley never returned to port and was lost for decades. "How the submarine, which lay buried in the mud of the ocean floor, left her bed there and what happened is a fascinating story of mystery, bones, and gold." The sub is now in North Charleston, SC at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center. In the 1870's PT Barnum offered \$10,000 for finding the Hunley, which had silently delivered a torpedo which sank a Union ship blockading the coast of South Carolina. The Hunley was re-discovered in 1995 by archeologists. This fascinating book for young people is just as interesting and informative for adults in that it details in simple language and good photos the study of the layers of sediment for clues about the ship's sinking and about the demise of the passengers. All the archeology, history, forensics, discovery, and mystery solving are presented in an engaging way involving the intrigues of the sea and science. This is a terrific book for family or schools, good explanations, well written, and easy to read

A fantastic pictorial review of the rediscovery of the Hunley's resting place outside Charleston, it's fascinating recovery and subsequent archeological investigation. It also introduces the reader to the men who manned her on her fateful first and last mission against a Federal vessel blockading Confederate supplies entering the harbor. A great introduction to this interesting if little known aspect of the war between the states.

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