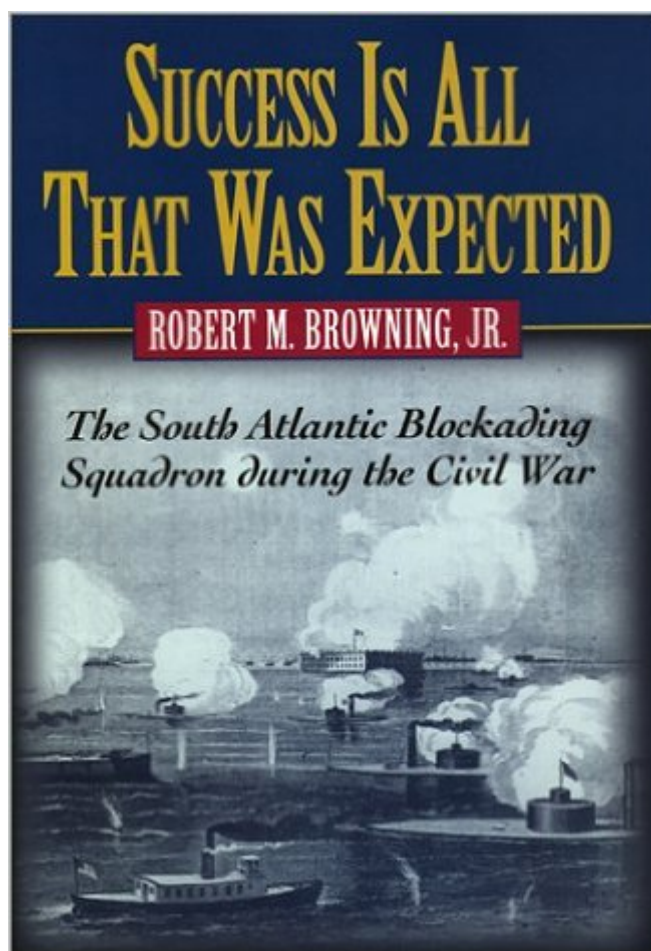


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Success Is All That Was Expected: The South Atlantic Blockading Squadron During The Civil War



Synopsis

Success Is All That Was Expected is a comprehensive operational history of the Union naval blockade that monitored the southern Atlantic coast from South Carolina to Florida during the American Civil War. Created in 1861 by the order of President Abraham Lincoln and charged with halting Confederate maritime commerce and closing Southern ports, the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron was the largest of the four Union coastal blockading squadrons for much of the conflict. This story covers the harrowing engagements between ships and forts, daring amphibious assaults, the battles between ironclad vessels, the harassment of Confederate blockade runners, and the incredible evolution of underwater warfare in the form of the CSS Hunley. The world's leading scholar of Union naval blockades during the Civil War, historian Robert Browning, reveals the squadron's numerous tactical accomplishments. He also illustrates how its success was constantly hampered by indecisive leaders in Washington who failed to express their strategic vision as well as by reputation-conscious naval commanders who were reluctant to press the fight when the specter of failure loomed. Despite lost opportunities, unfulfilled expectations, and failures along the way, the bravery, sacrifice, and vigilance of these fighting men played a crucial role in the Union's ultimate victory.

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Customer Reviews

One of the first measures imposed by the North on the South during the War was to establish a blockade. The United States Navy was ill prepared to enforce such a blockade. Officially the U.S. Navy consisted of ninety vessels. Only forty-two of these were in commission, the rest were in moth

balls, or as it was called then 'in ordinary,' or they were on foreign station, or patrolling the Gulf coast. Nor were the ships that were available suited for blockade use. The Navy primarily had ships designed for deep water operations, not the shallow coastal areas typical of the southern coast. As the title says, success was expected. The blockade of course lasted throughout the war. By the end the Navy was not only prepared, but was indeed able to effectively blockade these ports. The particular area covered by the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron covered from Cape Fear to Cape Canaveral. This book joins the authors previous book on the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and presumably there is at least one more book to come in the series.

Thorough telling of the operations of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron from Ft. Sumter until the close of the war. Charleston is the centerpiece of the drama of the book. The author discusses the operations of the squadron before and after the attack on Charleston as well as the nuts and bolts of the blockade but the U.S. efforts to take the cradle of secession. While the squadron and U.S. Army forces generally had success in the area they couldn't take Charleston. How it's situated makes it ideal for defense, compounding that the rebels did a thorough job of making defensive preparations for the harbor. In addition the Army and Navy didn't do well at coordinating their operations. All these factors led to frustration after frustration for the Union war effort in this campaign. Charleston fell once Sherman's Army turned north from Savannah, accomplishing the goal to avenge Sumter, by this time a battered pile of rubble in the harbor. The author uses many good primary sources and has a smooth writing style to uncover a more overlooked facet of the war.

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