Iron Against Iron

As the news spread of the impending clash of the ironclads, Northerners and Southerners alike sized the shores of Hampton Roads to watch the day’s battle. Confident from the previous day's victory, the CSS Virginia’s crews began the day with two jiggers of whiskey and a hearty breakfast. Eager to return to the battlefield, the Virginia fired the opening salvo from a thousand yards out against the USS Minnesota, hitting the ship and causing an explosion. The USS Monitor moved to intercept the Virginia to protect the Minnesota. For the next four hours, the two ironclads circled one another, trading shot and shell at point-blank range but doing no significant damage. Through it all, the Monitor protected the Minnesota, and it remained afloat.

The battle that day left neither the Monitor nor the Virginia seriously damaged, and both sides claimed victory. Ultimately, historians have called the battle a draw; however, there was one clear winner: ironclad technology. The age of wooden warships was over.

**DAY 2  March 9, 1862**

**TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor begins battle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires first shot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia sets Minnesota on fire with shells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 AM</td>
<td>Minnesota fires on CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia alters course and fires on Monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires on Monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires on Monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires on Monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires on Monitor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires on Monitor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>CSS Virginia fires on Monitor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>USS Monitor engages CSS Virginia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENERAL PLAN AND PROFILE VIEWS**

General plan and profile views of Monitor, showing section features and details, published in February 1862, just after her launch.

**Enlarged Area of March 9th Battle**

One of a few photographs of the CSS Monitor, providing the only actual evidence of the ironclad's appearance and crew.