

# BATTLE OF HAMPTON ROADS – Day 1, March 8, 1862

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



## Wood Faces Iron

The CSS *Virginia* was slow and unwieldy, but this Confederate ironclad monster had one of the most destructive maiden voyages in history. In less than eight hours, the *Virginia* attacked the entire Union fleet in Hampton Roads sinking four vessels, capturing a transport and damaging four other warships. The destruction left behind totaled 241 Union sailors killed and more than 100 wounded. It was the worst U.S. Navy defeat until Pearl Harbor. In contrast, the crew of *Virginia* suffered only two casualties and a dozen wounded. The Union vessels fought bravely; however, their guns were unable to penetrate the *Virginia*'s armored casemate. *Virginia* seemed unstoppable. That evening the USS *Monitor* arrived in Hampton Roads and encountered a scene of carnage and despair for the Union Navy. *Monitor* took up a protective position next to the grounded USS *Minnesota*. The arrival of the USS *Monitor* buoyed Union hopes for a battle that was certain to resume the next day. On March 8th, the CSS *Virginia* became the world's most powerful weapon. But only for one day.

## DAY 1 March 8, 1862



UNION

TIMELINE

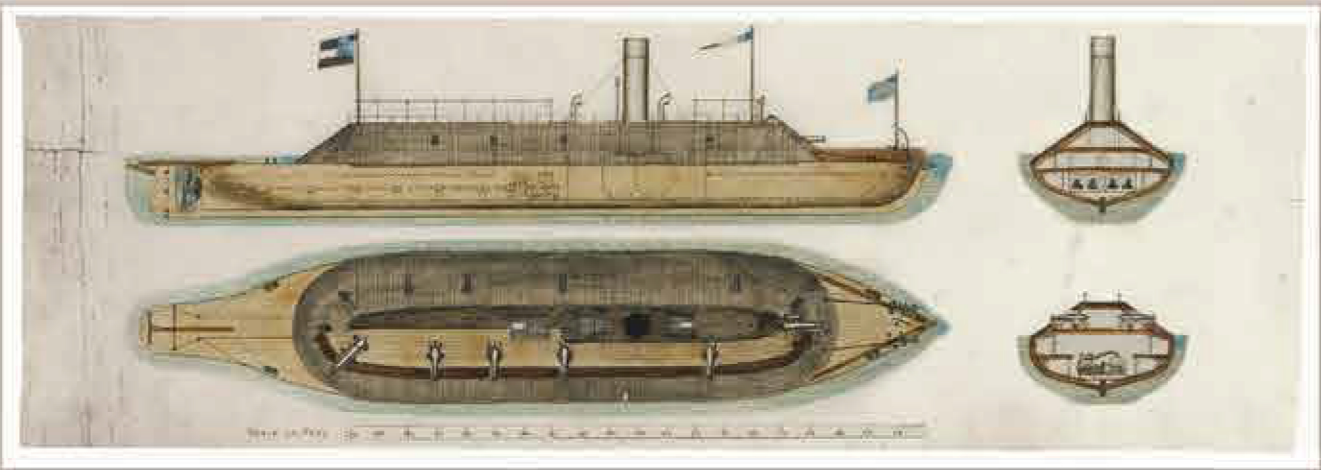
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
10:00 am CSS <i>Virginia</i> 's armored casemate is coated with a thick layer of "ship's grease" to help deflect shots.	11:30 am CSS <i>Virginia</i> departs Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia.		1:30 pm From its anchorage near Fort Monroe, USS <i>Minnesota</i> sights CSS <i>Virginia</i> by Sewells Point and moves to engage the enemy with USS <i>Roanoke</i> and USS <i>St. Lawrence</i> .	2:00 PM	3:10 pm USS <i>Minnesota</i> runs aground while attempting to join the battle.	4:00 pm USS <i>Roanoke</i> runs aground while attempting to join the battle.	5:00 pm USS <i>Roanoke</i> is refloated and towed back to the protection of Fort Monroe.	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 pm USS <i>St. Lawrence</i> is refloated and towed back to Fort Monroe.	9:00 pm USS <i>Monitor</i> enters Hampton Roads and is ordered to take up station near and protect USS <i>Minnesota</i> .	10:00 PM	11:00 PM USS <i>Monitor</i> anchors next to USS <i>Minnesota</i> and both ships are illuminated by the burning USS <i>Congress</i> .

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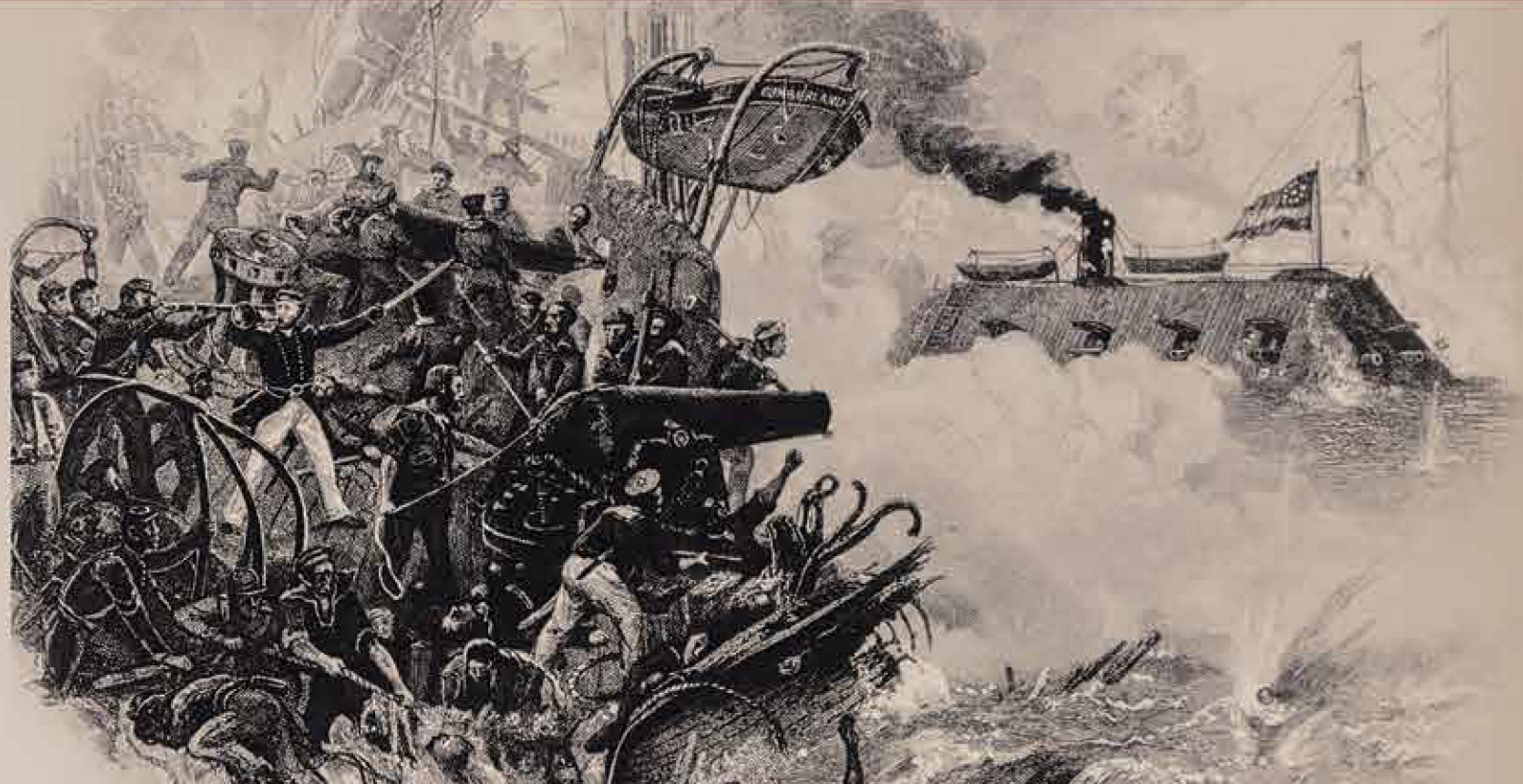


CONFEDERACY

Part of a larger print, this depiction of CSS *Virginia* shows interior features and details.



3:35 PM  
USS *Cumberland*'s acting commander (in white pants) urging remaining crew to continue fighting the CSS *Virginia* before abandoning their sinking ship.  
Naval History and Heritage Command



Gosport Navy Yard was used to convert the USS *Merrimack* into the CSS *Virginia*  
Naval History and Heritage Command



The Mariners' Museum and Park



Learn more about the ironclads and the battle at the USS *Monitor* Center

James River

664



Monitor-Merrimack Overlook Park

Camp Butler  
8,000 troops  
8 guns

5

4

3

6

USS *Congress*  
Assisted by USS *Zouave*

USS *St. Lawrence*  
Assisted by USS *Young American*

USS *Minnesota*  
Assisted by USS *Dragon*

7

8

9

USS *Roanoke*  
Assisted by USS *Mystic*

USS *Monitor*

Fort Wool  
220 troops  
10 guns

Chesapeake Bay

64

Sewells Pt.  
Batteries - 31 Guns

Union Hospital

Union Camps

Hampton

Mill Creek

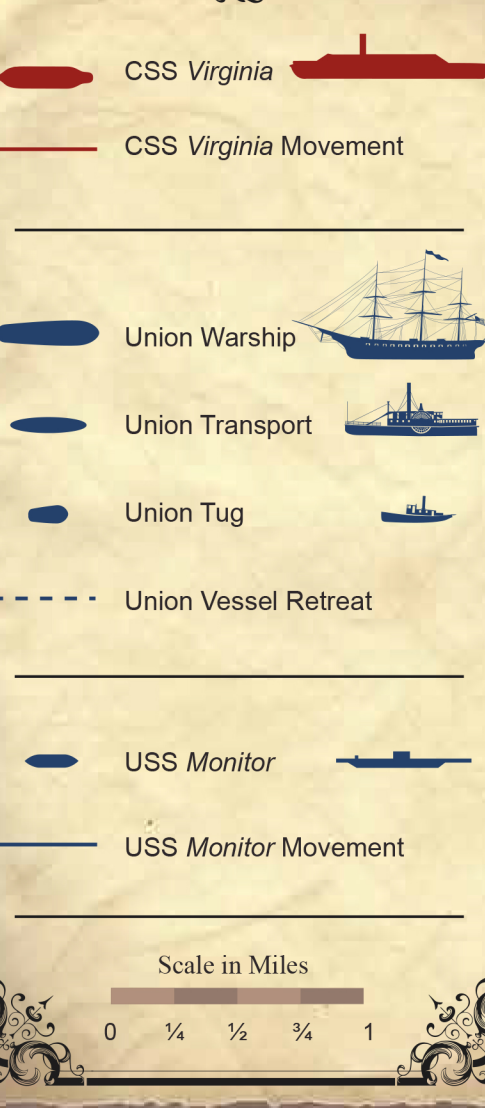
Fort Monroe  
10,000 troops  
180 guns

USS *St. Lawrence*  
Assisted by USS *Young American*

USS *Roanoke*  
Assisted by USS *Mystic*

USS *Monitor*

### LEGEND



Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Craney Island Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Batteries

Confederate Hospital

Gosport Navy Yard

Portsmouth

Norfolk

460

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