

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Battle of Mobile Bay

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Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Friend, Jack	<i>West Wind, Flood Tide: The Battle of Mobile Bay</i> . Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2004.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Duffy, James P.	<i>Lincoln’s Admiral: The Civil War Campaigns of David Farragut</i> . Edison, New Jersey: Castle Books, 2006.
Hearn, Chester G.	<i>Mobile Bay and the Mobile Campaign: The Last Great Battles of the Civil War</i> . Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 1993
Kenney, John C.	“Farragut at Mobile Bay” in Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel, eds., 4 vols., <i>Battles and Leaders of the Civil War</i> (New York: The Century Co. 1887-1888), 4:379-400.
Mahan, Alfred Thayer	<i>Admiral Farragut</i> . New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1892.
Still, William N.	<i>Iron Afloat: The Story of Confederate Ironclads</i> . Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, 1971, chap. 12.
Symonds, Craig L.	<i>Confederate Admiral: The Life and Wars of Franklin Buchanan</i> . Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1999

_____.	<i>Lincoln and His Admirals</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
Tucker, Spencer	<i>Blue & Gray Navies: The Civil War Afloat</i> . Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2006, chap. 13.
United States Navy	<i>Civil War Naval Chronology 1861-1865</i> . Washington, D.C.:United States Navy, vols.4 and 6.
United States Navy Department	<i>Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion</i> , 31 vols. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1927), Series I, volume 21.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Fort Gaines	Fort Gaines is the preserved fort from the battle. It is located at 51 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island AL 36528. Tel. 251 861 6992. Their website is: http://dauphinisland.org/fort-gaines/
Fort Morgan State Historic Site	Fort Morgan includes a museum and the preserved fort. They are located at 110 State Highway 180 Gulf Shores AL 36542. Tel. 251 540 5257. They are open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving and December 25 and 26. Their website is: http://www.fort-morgan.org/
History Museum of Mobile	The History Museum of Mobile covers the history of the Mobile area. Their website is: http://museumofmobile.com/

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.battleofmobilebay.com/	This is a Civil War Trails website covering historic resources around Mobile related to the 1864 and 1865 battles.
http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/civil-war/the-battle-of-mobile-bay.html	The U.S. Navy History and Heritage Command site contains a great deal of information, documents, and images relating to the battle and the combatants.
https://www.loc.gov/search/?in=&q=battle+of+mobile+bay&new=true&st=	The Library of Congress collection includes some excellent images and other resources relating to the battle and its participants.

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
U.S. Naval Academy Museum (Annapolis MD)	Has items from the battle on display, including the wheel of the USS <i>Hartford</i>
Civil War Naval Museum (Columbus GA)	Has items from the combatants on display

Scholars

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Topic Précis

The Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864 pitted two powerful naval forces against each other for control of one of the Confederacy's last links to the outside world. Union forces won a decisive victory in less than four hours of fighting. The engagement was one of the iconic naval battles of the Civil War, and occupies a significant place in the American lexicon and national consciousness today. The clash at Mobile Bay also illustrates the fact that while naval warfare involves the intersection of policy, strategy, and technology, ultimately the human factor is decisive. The attacking Union ships were part of Rear Admiral David Glasgow Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron. Defending Mobile was the responsibility of Admiral Franklin "Buck" Buchanan, the Confederate Navy's first admiral. At the mouth of Mobile Bay, Fort Gaines was engaged by a Union force of infantry 2,000 strong while Fort Morgan was attacked by Farragut's 14 ships. The union ship *Tecumseh* was sunk by a Confederate torpedo (mine) and observing this Farragut issued his famous order "Damn the torpedoes" leading the union force through the Confederate minefield to engage the Confederate ships in Mobile Bay. The Confederate on

Confederate ship sank, two struck their colors and one retreated to Mobile. The Union force lost 151 men killed and 177 wounded, the Confederates 13 killed, 22 wounded and 1,587 captured. Over the next few days fighting continued to secure Mobile Bay with Fort Gaines falling August 8 and Fort Morgan surrendering August 23. Union forces were not strong enough to take Mobile but they did render the harbor unusable and tied up 10,000 Confederate troops in defense of the city. Mobile itself surrendered in March 1865 to a Union expedition led by Major General R. S. Canby.
