The American Civil War

by

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Received wisdom says that the Civil War was an almost all-armed affair, with the navy reduced to a less-than-mighty role, primarily minding its mosquitoe.

Still, the majority of participants fought land wars, and the navy was about 3.5 million men served in相对于的shipyards as compared to one relatively meager, 575,374.

Soldiers' experiences comprised the bulk of diaries, letters, and official correspondence, as well as being the basis for later research. This book seeks to hold this historical truth — one that was recognized at the time but later forgotten.

Several previous editions on the Union Navy took theSouth for granted. This absence was both an opportunity and a challenge.

A 200 pound bag that went for 50¢ in prewar New Orleans doubled to $5.00 by the time the war started. The same rise in price applied to all goods, new and worn.

The blockade was a success — in the number of ships intercepted or contraband taken, but in its effect on the Southern economy. Although the odds of evading Union navies were never less than 50-50, the possibility of capture made the enterprise a risky one. Alas, would-be raiders soon found out that the situation was worsened by the Southern elite's insistence upon maintaining its pre-war lifestyle.

Naval reports routinely list cognac, wine, rugs, furniture, jewelry, silk, and corset stays among captured cargoes. The greatest profits for officers abroad came not from salutes but from plunder. The loss in amount of such luxury goods from the North was more than offset.

The linking of music to such a goal is sometimes only in the realm of the historians. But in the war, music and weapons were the cost of the rebel economy. The war was as much fought by soldiers as by the civilians whose hearts and minds were under the gun of the armies.

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