



BIBLIO-PILOT SERIES

The Mariners' Museum Library

Subject Guide to USS *Monitor*

March 2008
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Key Terms	:	Monitor (Ironclad : 1862)
Scope Note	:	Monitor (Ironclad : 1862) refers to the first warship constructed for the United States Navy almost completely of iron, with a unique steam engine, 4-bladed propeller and rotating gun turret. The vessel was designed by John Ericsson. She was launched in January, 1862. The USS <i>Monitor</i> saw its first action on March 9, 1862, in a 4-hour long battle at Hampton Roads, Virginia, with the Confederate ironclad CSS <i>Virginia</i> (see the subject guide to the Battle of Hampton Roads). Under tow by the steamship <i>Rhode Island</i> en route to Wilmington, N.C., <i>Monitor</i> foundered in a gale on Dec. 31, 1862. The discovery of <i>Monitor</i> 's wreck 16.1 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 1973, has initiated a period of intense study and recovery of select artifacts by NOAA and other organizations and private divers. (Source: http://monitor.noaa.gov/about/history.html and "The Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships" http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/m13/monitor-i.htm)
Broader Term	:	Armored Vessels Turret ships United States. Navy--History--Civil War, 1861-1865 Warships
Related Term	:	Hampton Roads, Battle of, Va., 1862 Broadwater, John D. Continental Iron Works Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870 Ericsson, John, 1803-1889 Geer, George S., 1837-1892 Jeffers, William Nicholson, 1824-1883 Keeler, William Frederick, 1821-1886 Metals—Conservation and restoration Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (N.C.) Naval architecture NOAA Newton, John Garland, 1932-1984 Peterkin, Ernest W. Rowland, Thomas Fitch, 1831-1907 Shipwrecks Underwater archaeology Watts, Gordon P., Jr. Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878 Worden, John Lorimer, 1818-1897

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