

### 5 October 1863

Lt. W. T. Glaswell of the Confederate States Navy slips down Charleston Harbor in the torpedo boat, *David*, to attack the USS *New Ironsides* (in front of the full moon). Although his attack did not sink the blockading ship, it did put her out of action for the rest of the war. Torpedo boats were made of wood, powered by a steam engine, and carried a crew of about seven men. Normally they floated a little higher out of the water, but could be submerged so low when attacking that they were difficult to spot—especially at night. The cylinder at the end of the spar contained 60-70 pounds of black powder, and had to be rammed against the enemy ship to detonate.

