

CIA Ship May Try To Lift the Monitor

Beaufort, N.C.

The Glomar Explorer, used in the attempted recovery of a Soviet submarine by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1974, may be used to salvage the Civil War ironclad warship Monitor, which has been resting off Cape Hatteras since 1862.

The Monitor Research and Recovery Foundation and Global Marine Development, Inc., of Newport Beach, Calif., are discussing a proposal to salvage the wreckage next year.

John G. Newton, director of the foundation, met recently with representatives of Global Marine, which contracts with the federal government to operate the Glomar Explorer.

The Glomar Explorer was built under contract between the CIA and the Hughes Corp., controlled by elusive billionaire Howard Hughes.

Last year it was reported that the vessel was used to recover part of a Soviet submarine which had sunken in the Pacific.

The Monitor, a Union warship which heralded the age of ironclad fighting ships, was located in 1973 by a Duke University marine laboratory research group headed by Newton.

The Monitor sank during a storm on New Year's Eve, 1862, on her way to Charleston, S.C. The vessel had fought the Confederate ironclad Virginia — formerly the Union frigate Merrimac — to a standstill in an epoch-making battle at Hampton Roads two months earlier.

Robert Brokaw, marketing officer for Global Marine Development, said the foundation will conduct preliminary research at the wreckage. After the study is complete, Global Marine will conduct feasibility studies to determine if the project might be successful.

"We have the capability to pick it up," Brokaw said. "We have pictures of how we would do it with the ship's recovery unit."

Newton said Global Marine is one of several companies which the foundation has contacted about the recovery project.

Brokaw said the company charges \$30,000 a day to lease the vessel. He estimated the cost of the salvage operation at \$15 million.

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