

Ms "Log for month of February 1942 - U.S.S.
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Typescript (photocopy); 4 pp. Headed
"Enclosure (A) - No. 10."

Gift, Otto Schwartz, May, 1981.

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LOG FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1942 - U.S.S. HOUSTON

- Feb. 1 - Departed Surabaya about 1100 in company with Paul Jones and Whipple enroute Makassar Straits to act as covering party for Marblehead and destroyers due to attack enemy south of Balikpapan about midnight Feb. 2nd.
- Feb. 2 - Underway all day without event. Approximately midnight message received from Marblehead saying "Risk too great". Houston turned about and proceeded toward Madoera Strait.
- Feb. 3 - Arrived Madura Strait about 0800 already at anchor there were the Tromp, DeRuyter, 3 Dutch destroyers (Van Ghent, Piet Hein, Bankert) and nine 4-pipers (Bulmer, Edwards, Pope, Ford, Pecos, Pillsbury, Paul Jones, Stewart Whipple). Marblehead arrived shortly after. Admiral Purnell arrived via PBY for conference with Admiral Doorman (ComStrifor). Plane returning from first air raid of Surabaya came overhead, looked us over and continued on. Air defense stations manned.
- Feb. 4 - Underway sometime during morning, about 0300 - formation DeRuyter, Houston, Marblehead and Tromp. Air defense about 1020 while enroute to Makassar Strait. About 54 planes, Mitsubishi 97's participated. Struck by bomb about 1230 while going to assistance of Marblehead who had been hit by bomb which disabled her steering engines. After hit on Houston, proceeded south toward Alas Straits just as darkness was falling.
- Feb. 5 - Arrived in Tjilatjap about 1630 that afternoon. While en route from Alas Strait air defense as one plane (later identified as Dutch PBY) was seen. Wounded moved ashore. Began fueling from dock.
- Feb. 6 - Funeral services were held for 46 Houston dead. Lt. (jg) Haulin in charge of military escort. Marblehead arrived Tjilatjap, tied up just forward of Houston.
- Feb. 7 - Funeral services were held for Marblehead dead. Military escort from Houston. Alongside dock all day. Inspection by Admiral Hart and Comdr. Bruner.
- Feb. 8 - Marblehead to drydock. DeRuyter moored forward of Houston. Admiral Glasford on board.

- Feb. 9 - DeRuyter departed Tjilatjap for Bali Straits with Tromp, Piet Hein, Erikon, DesDiv 58 (5) Repairs completed to damage done by bomb hit.
- Feb. 10 - Holland and Blackhawk entered harbor Tjilatjap. Underway for Darwin about 1300. Met Otis in narrows. Trinity out in Bay.
- Feb. 11 - Underway for Darwin.
- Feb. 12 - Underway for Darwin.
- Feb. 13 - Headed north of Darwin.
- Feb. 14 - (Valentine's Day) Arrived Darwin. Fueled from dock.
- Feb. 15 - Departed Port Darwin about 0300 in company with Peary, Swan, Warrego, Mauna Loa, Meigs, Tulagi and Port Mar. (Enroute Koepang. Tailed by one 4-engine flying boat. Requested air support, one P-40 showed up, shots fired to indicate presence of flying boat. Run made by flying boat at about 10,000 feet, no bombs dropped. P-40 went off. Smoke seen on horizon, identity unknown.
- Feb. 16 - About 0845 exchange signals with Loch-Head Hudson to southward. About 0900 picked up flying boat again. Air defense 1100, 36 twin-engined Mitsubishi 97's, target Houston. Only on last run were bombs dropped on convoy. One near-miss on transport Mauna Loa, two wounded on board. Wounded men transferred to Houston about 1700. Convoy ordered return to Darwin. Koepang had been taken.
- Feb. 17 - Enroute Darwin.
- Feb. 18 - Arrived Darwin about (1300, 1600, 1100). Fueled from barge. Departed about 1730 for sea. Headed in vicinity of Broome for rendezvous with Lt. Lamade.
- Feb. 19 - Cruised in vicinity of Broome (island 300 miles from Broome) until 1800. CSWP ordered Houston to Tjilatjap.
- Feb. 20 - Enroute Tjilatjap.
- Feb. 21 - Arrived Tjilatjap at dusk. Snapper class sub leaving as we arrived. Sub scare on approaching roads to Tjilatjap. Fueled from dock.
- Feb. 22 - Departed Tjilatjap about 0800, course 180 then west.

- Feb. 23 - Steered northerly course. Entered Sunda Strait at dusk. Passed thru during the night.
- Feb. 24 - Arrived Sourabaya Roads about 1530, air defense as fighter planes were seen overhead. No attack. Identity unknown. Tied up at Rotterdam Pier. Shifted berth to Navy Yard Dock about 2330. Fueled. Java passed, leaving Sourabaya.
- Feb. 25 - Tied alongside dock other side of DeRuyter. Bombed. No hits. Shortly after sunset underway with DeRuyter and Java. Course approximately 090.
- Feb. 26 - Underway. Course change to 270. Returned to Sourabaya 0900. Anchored in stream. Bombed. No hits. About 1600 entered Exeter, Perth, Encounter, Electra and Jupiter. 1730 alongside Dutch tanker for fuel. Also Kleetra, Jupiter. Departed Sourabaya at about 1930 in company with above ships and Java, DeRuyter, Paul Jones, Edsall, Ford, Edwards, Dutch destroyers W. D. Witte, Kortenaer. Course 090 underway DeRuyter, Exeter, Houston, Perth, Java. Dutch destroyers leading American destroyers bringing up the rear.
- Feb. 27 - Underway, course changed to 270 about 0100. Search for enemy force continued. Air defense about 1330, one plane resembling L)H began dive bomb approach. Fired on by Houston. Turned and went off. Return to Surabaya. Submarine discovered in entrance minefields. Identified herself as American. Ordered to turn back to sea at 1430.
- Feb. 27 - (continued) Air defense sounded. Three enemy SOC's overhead about 1615. Enemy force sighted by planes making for Bovlean Island. Striking force to intercept. First salvo fired from Exeter 1630 at enemy battle line. Battle continued all day and night and early morning of --
- Feb. 28 - Houston in company of Perth, only survivors of Allied Battle line enroute to Batavia. Arrived Batavia about 1430, fueled. Enemy SOC's - Lt. Payne followed close behind. Departed Batavia for unknown destination via Sunda Straits about 2000. 2300 General Quarters. Houston and Perth engaged by enemy surface craft in or near Sunda Strait. Perth sunk about 2345.

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Mar. 1 - On or about 0040, while engaged with numerically superior enemy
Naval force, the U.S.S. HOUSTON was sunk by gunfire approximately
8 miles N.E. of Saint Nicholas Point Light.

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