

THE WOUNDED

Over the years, this website has collected data regarding the fate of the wounded men from the light cruiser *USS Marblehead (CL-12)*, hereinafter referred to simply as *Marby*ⁱ and the heavy cruiser *USS Houston (CA-30)* following their bombings on 4 Feb 1942 in the Battle of Makassar Strait.ⁱⁱ Until now, we had not consolidated the data because of significant conflicts in the information. On April 3, 2024, we received a message from Dr. Jennifer Mead, great granddaughter of the late Dr. Corydon Wassell which read as follows:

Hi, I am the great granddaughter of Dr. Corydon Wassell – I am working on a project and I was wondering if there is a list of the name of the wounded men from the USS Marblehead and USS Houston that Dr. Wassell successfully got to safety. Thanks for any help or direction to obtain this information! Thank you. Dr. Jennifer Mead, ND

The answer to Dr. Mead's question has been sought by researchers worldwide since the end of WWII, and particularly since the advent of the Internet. Articles and books have been written and movies have been made, but too often the data remained confusing, in conflict and/or incomplete, i.e., short on details such as dates, places, and a single accurate count of the number of men under Wassell's wing at various points as the dynamic situation in Java evolved.ⁱⁱⁱ

For example, while the book entitled [The Story of Dr. Wassell](#) conveys the basic story, it has significant shortcomings in answering Dr. Mead's question. For starters, that otherwise enjoyable book fictionalized the names of the wounded sailors. 'Wassell' appears to be the only real name in the book, though one can guess who some of the characters were in real life, e.g. the fictional Cdr. Wilson was Cdr. William Bernard Goggins; Renny, who got constant attention from the Javanese nurse nicknamed 'Three Martini', was Benjamin G. Hopkins, Jr; and the thorn in Wassell's side, McGuffey, said to be a ship's cook, was based on either Marby's Herman L. Carpenter or on Houston's Samuel J. Marsh, the only two sailors on the list of offloaded wounded with ship's cook rates. Perhaps the book's publisher made the decision to fictionalize the names for legal reasons. The movie version of the story did have some real names in its cast list but made no attempt to link those with the fictional names in the book. We also suspect that there was a ship fictionalization in [The Story of Dr. Wassell](#) - more on that shortly.

Wounded Sailors Transferred to Two Hospitals

The real names of the wounded sailors off-loaded in Tjilatjap are in the Muster Rolls (MRs) and Reports of Changes (RoCs) of *Marby* and *Houston*. In addition, *Marby*'s Capt. Robinson had a special list prepared (the "Additional List") which split *Marby*'s wounded into two groups: *Marby* Group 1 consisted of the severely wounded who were sent by hospital train inland to Petronella Hospital in Djoejakarta, Java, a significant cultural and political center in known for its educational institutions and as the seat of two sultanates prior to Dutch colonization. It was known to have a larger, better equipped hospital. *Marby*'s Group 2, with one exception^{iv}, consisted of less severely wounded sailors who were sent to the local hospital in Tjilatjap. Though Tjilatjap was the only deep-water port on Java's south coast, it was not as well-developed as Djoejakarta, had a smaller population, and its hospital appears to have been more basic. Note also that although Houston's MRs state that all eleven of her men were sent to the hospital in Tjilatjap, the crew lists on the Houston.org website indicate that several were also sent to Djoejakarta.

These three groups total 60 men: *Marby* Group 1: 23, *Marby* Group 2: 26, and the *Houston* Group: 11. Their names, with rate or rank and their service numbers, comprise columns 2-3 in the Tracker Table which begins on page 6 hereof. Their fates and trajectories in the months that followed, including our best guesses as to whether they were on *MV Janssens* with Dr. Wassell, comprise columns 4-5 of the Tracker Table.

A Reminder of the Times.

Before we describe the process of elimination we used to identify the nine sailors who were with Wassell for the final trip to Tjilatjap, and the eight who actually boarded *Janssens* with him, we thought it would be useful to remind readers of the chaotic month from 4 Feb to 4 Mar, 1942 in Java (particularly in Tjilatjap), to truly appreciate the challenges and urgency that Dr. Wassell and his charges were dealing with in one of the most disruptive times in human history.

1942 – Fear and panic in Southeast Asia’s last bastion of colonialism - the Netherlands East Indies (NEI)

As 1942 dawned, the 17,000-island archipelago known as NEI was the largest colonial possession in Southeast Asia by far. It was home to the world’s 7th largest population and was the planet’s largest rubber producer and its 4th largest oil producer, commodities key to success in the war. By 31 Mar 1942 nearly everything in and around NEI had come under Japanese control. French Indochina, then Axis-controlled, had granted Japan use of its ports, airfields, and railroads.

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|---------|---|------------------------|--|
| 2 Jan: | Japan takes control of Manila, Philippines. | 1 Mar: | <i>USS Edsall</i> sunk south of Java. |
| 11 Jan: | Unopposed, Japan occupies Kuala Lumpur, the capital of British Malaya. | 1 Mar: | <i>USS Pecos</i> sunk by planes from Japanese carrier <i>Soryu</i> . |
| 27 Jan: | British armed forces withdraw from Malaya. | 1 Mar: | <i>USS Pope</i> sunk in the Java Sea (north of Java). |
| 4 Feb: | <i>Marby</i> and <i>Houston</i> are bombed in the Flores Sea. | 1 Mar: | <i>USS Houston</i> is sunk in Battle of Sunda Strait. |
| 4 Feb: | <i>Houston</i> arrives Tjilatjap, Java and transfers her wounded on 4 th through 7 th Feb 1942. | 1 Mar: | Japanese forces land at three points on Java. |
| 6 Feb: | <i>Marby</i> arrives Tjilatjap; transfers her wounded. | 1 Mar: | <i>USS Asheville</i> , <i>Isabel</i> , <i>Lark</i> , and <i>Tulsa</i> depart Tjilatjap for Fremantle, Australia. |
| 7 Feb: | Dr. Wassell first meets the badly wounded sailors in Joejakarta, Java. | 2 Mar: | <i>USS Parrott</i> , sunk in the Java Sea north of Java. |
| 10 Feb: | <i>Houston</i> departs Tjilatjap for final time. | 2 Mar: | <i>USS Pillsbury</i> , sunk at coordinates south of Java. |
| 13 Feb: | <i>Marby</i> bids Tjilatjap farewell, commencing her long voyage home. | 2 Mar: | <i>USS Stewart</i> , scuttled in Surabaya, Java. |
| 15 Feb: | All major islands in NEI are effectively Japanese controlled leaving Java surrounded and isolated. | 3 Mar: | <i>USS Asheville</i> sunk south of Java. |
| 15 Feb: | Singapore falls in the largest British surrender in history. | 3 Mar: | <i>MV Janssens</i> sails with the evening tide from Tjilatjap with 450 refugees bound for Fremantle. ^v |
| 19 Feb: | <i>USS Peary</i> ^{vi} sunk in massive Japanese air assault on Darwin, Australia. | 7 Mar ^{vii} : | <i>USS Isabel</i> , <i>USS Lark</i> , and <i>USS Tulsa</i> arrive Fremantle. |
| 27 Feb: | <i>MS Abbekerk</i> departs Tjilatjap with Oscar Rudie aboard. | 11 Mar: | <i>Tulsa</i> ’s begins transferring evacuated sailors to Hollywood Hospital, Perth, and to ComBaseForceUSAF in Fremantle for assignment. |
| | | 13 Mar: | <i>MV Janssens</i> arrives Fremantle. |
| | | 6 May: | Corregidor, “Gibraltar of the East,” falls to Japanese forces ending U.S. resistance in the Philippines. |
| | | 4-7 Jun: | Strategic momentum finally began its swing to the Allies with the U.S. victory in the Battle of Midway. |

Only nine weeks had passed since a European war had become World War II, and as in Europe, the Allies were in retreat almost everywhere in Asia. Daily life was deteriorating fast as colonialism slid towards a brutal end in the face of another seemingly unstoppable Axis juggernaut. In NEI, formerly comfortable lives were fast fading into dark clouds of disorder and despair. French Indochina had come under Axis control in mid-1940, and in a matter of weeks following the attack on Pearl Harbor, America lost the Philippines, Britain lost Hong Kong, Malaya, and Singapore, and the Dutch lost control of all of the major islands of the NEI, except Java, the colony’s military and

administrative seat. There, in late February and early March, the lives and prospects of millions of people were changing by the minute.

Communications, slow even in the best of times compared to today, were increasingly disrupted, spawning hearsay, confusion, and panic. Formerly adhered to procedures, such as record keeping, waned quickly amid the rapid change. Ships, such as the Dutch freighter, *MS Abbekerk*, built to accommodate crew or nineteen, had an estimated 1300 to 1700 people in her bowels and on her decks when she departed Tjilatjap for the final time. Complete passenger lists? Not likely! Even the U.S. Navy's usually reliable process of tracking its sailors based on MRs and accompanying RoCs became less dependable as men went one way and their records went another. Sailors noted in such documents as having sailed to Australia on an American ship, such as the *USS Tulsa*, ended up instead as a prisoner of war building railways in Burma or dying in the sinking of an entirely different ship. Chaos reigned at so many levels that even the striking progress of ensuing decades, while helpful, has not been able to deliver a complete and accurate picture of what transpired in the scramble to exit Java 82 years ago (at this writing).

Our Approach and Process of Elimination

Refreshed and new research. We began our response to Dr. Mead with a re-read [The Story of Dr. Wassell](#). To cross-reference names, service numbers, rates, ranks and other details, we often consulted [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#), perhaps the best source on the *USS Marblehead* saga, though its writers, at the time, would have been largely unaware of, and could not have written accurately about the fate of the sailors she left behind on Java. Our research also brought to light a first-hand account of the passage of *MS Janssens* from Tjilatjap to Fremantle, Australia. Entitled [Pacific Microphone](#) and published in 1988 by celebrated WWII correspondent, William J. Dunn, it covers the entire war, but we focused only the pages dealing with the fall of Java and his escape with a few colleagues on *MS Janssens* where he encountered Wassell, Goggins, and some of the wounded sailors. Another well-documented source was [Escape from Java](#) by John J. Domagalski, which used the sailors' real names. We also re-read and read anew articles on Dr. Wassell, Cdr. Goggins, and Capt. Prass, and the chaotic evacuations from Tjilatjap.

We revisited hundreds of pages of U.S. Navy Muster Rolls (MRs) and their related Reports of Changes (RoCs) of the American ships that, in addition to *Marby* and *Houston*, were intimately involved with the trajectories of one or more of the wounded, e.g., *Tulsa*, *Pecos*, *Talamanca*, *Whipple*, *Edsall*, and *Mt. Vernon*. We also reviewed the MRs and RoCs of U.S. Navy shore stations (e.g., RS Fremantle, RS San Francisco, the Naval Hospital at Mare Island, CA, RS San Diego, the U.S. Naval Attache's office in Melbourne) that were relevant to the story. We combed available records of other Allied vessels such as, [MS Abbekerk](#), one of many Dutch merchant ships whose crews risked their lives multiple times in getting the wounded military men and innocent civilians out of Java. [The Java Gold blog](#) was also a useful source. We even reached out to sources "Down Under" such as the grandson of *MS Janssens* Captain Prass and entities of interest such as Hollywood Hospital (now Hollywood Private Hospital) in Western Australia's capital, Perth, which abuts Fremantle harbor. That hospital had just opened its doors in early 1942 when Allied servicemen and civilians began pouring in from Tjilatjap, other parts of the NEI, and wider Southeast Asia. Many of documents, particularly the MRs and RoCs of RS Fremantle, were challenging to decipher due to the escalating chaos of the time, the intervening decades, and poor scan quality. All these entities, records, and events had some role in the drama and in our conclusions.

The First Cut. Sixty is a lot of men, but we can easily eliminate twelve of them from the list (a red circle (O) precedes each of those names in the Tracker Table) – eleven from *Marby's* Group 2 because they rejoined the ship before her 13 Feb 1942 departure from Tjilatjap^{viii}, and one from *Houston*, Marvin Sizemore, because his postwar oral history confirms that he was left behind in Java when *Houston* departed unexpectedly in response to news of

an impending Japanese attack. The new total, 48, is still a lot to shepherd, particularly for a man in his fifties in an increasingly chaotic and dangerous environment.

The Second Cut, Escape 1, and the suspected Ship Fictionalization. Thirty-nine (39) of the remaining 48 men comprise the bulk of the men in Wassell's first, largely successful, evacuation effort which The Story of Dr. Wassell says took place aboard a Dutch merchant navy vessel named *Breskens*. For three reasons, we believe that *Breskens*, like the names of the men in The Story of Dr. Wassell, was a fictional name.

First, the name *Breskens* does not appear on any of several lists of the ships in the Dutch Merchant Navy operating in NEI at the time. Second, on page 95 of The Story of Dr. Wassell, Wassell reveals to Francini, that someone on a bridge that they had just passed had said "...*Breskens* was torpedoed. All our men were saved except four ..." Many ships were sunk after leaving Tjilatjap, but we found no case of a *Breskens* being sunk or of any sinking that involved subsequent, successful rescue of 39 men, particularly men off *Marblehead* or *Houston*. Instead, we believe most of the 39 men in the first escape left Tjilatjap on 1 Mar 1942 aboard *USS Tulsa (PG-22)*, the vintage patrol gunboat that had joined the Asiatic Fleet in 1929. *Tulsa* has been described as "operating independently along Java's south coast by Feb 1942". She had taken aboard the service records of the wounded sailors transferred in Tjilatjap. She made several runs to Australia ferrying wounded and other evacuees to Fremantle, and she was ordered there when Java became untenable. Most importantly, her RoCs indicate that she took aboard wounded sailors, and the RoCs of the U.S. Navy Receiving Station in Fremantle, indicate that that station received *Marby* and *Houston* wounded from *USS Tulsa*. Finally, *Tulsa* was active in the Southwest Pacific campaign until the end of the war, and we believe that American military censors had good reason to require fictionalization of the ship's name. Our copy of the book is a first edition published in Apr 43. While that was a year after these events, the Pacific Campaign still had a long run ahead of it, and the censors had no reason to give the Japanese any inkling of which ships were operational in that theatre. Quite the contrary! That said, the receipt of credible evidence that *Breskens* did exist would cause us to revisit this conclusion.

By excluding men marked with an "O", the Tracker Table answers Dr. Mead's question at the highest level. It focuses us on the men that Dr. Wassell impacted most. Still, Dr. Mead's interest is at a more granular level, i.e., who were the men that Dr. Wassell stayed behind for and then took aboard *Janssens* in the second, smaller evacuation?

Escape 2. Absent any reliable list of the men in Dr. Wassell's care, which he provided to Capt. Prass, *Janssens'* skipper (more on such a list later), we continued our "process of elimination" relying primarily on the muster rolls of *USS Tulsa*, RS Fremantle, and other stations. The findings of this exercise are summarized in column 4 of the Tracker Table. Our best guess as to the eight men who were in the convoy from Djoejakarta on 3 Mar 1942 are highlighted in red. We believe that all of them except Oscar Rudie were with Dr. Wassell on *MS Janssens*. Rudie appears to have left a couple of days earlier (perhaps coinciding with the first evacuation) when he "took a bird in the hand" and got aboard *MV Abbekerk* for her voyage to Fremantle which began on 27 Feb.

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A Water-soaked Sheet of Paper. The 75 days of research that went into this document might have been unnecessary had we stumbled earlier upon a 1 May 1942 article in The Pittsburgh Press. We came across it on 22 May 2024, as we wrapped up the near-final draft of our answer to Dr. Mead, 82 years after Dr. Wassell and his men reached the safety of Fremantle harbor. Had we had that article when her email arrived, we could have just sent her the highlighted section at the right. Perhaps! But it too is a second-hand source. A photograph of the actual “water-soaked sheet” may have put the matter to rest, but that would have left out so much of the story surrounding the men who, whether on *Janssens* or not, owed their lives to the heroic, dogged persistence and persuasion of her grandfather, Dr. Corydon McAlmont Wassell!

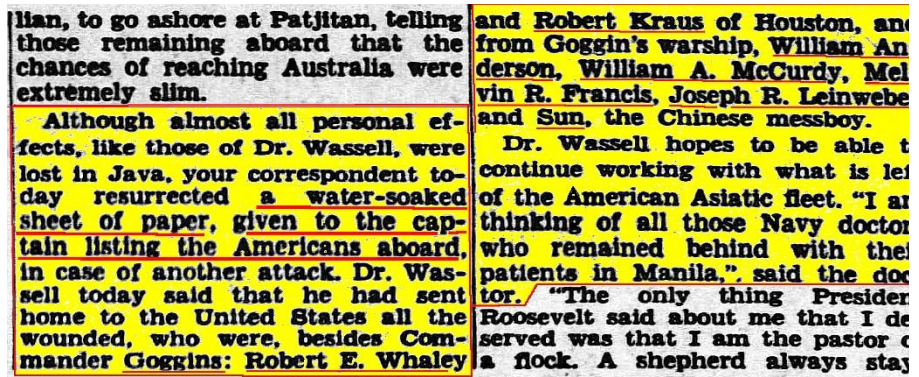


Figure 1: Article from the Pittsburgh Press

Caveat on our choice of the Eight Men, Highlighted in Red in Annex 2. Several guesses turned up in our research as to the number of wounded sailors with Dr. Wassell in *Escape 2* on the *MV Janssens* to Australia. The lowest estimate we came across was three, but leading the list were the following:

- 12 from the speechwriters of President Roosevelt's 28 Apr 1942 Fireside Chat
- 9 from *The Story of Dr. Wassell*, page 44.
- 8 from the soaked list above.

We went with eight for several reasons. First, we did not believe all the other words that the speechwriters put into President Roosevelt's mouth, particularly the following, which reeked of exaggeration:

"Dr. Wassell took virtual command of the ship, and by great skill avoided destruction, hiding in little bays and little inlets."

Dr. Wassell was known to have been many things. His long years in China acquainted him with hardship and the violence of war. He was kind, but firm. He was a good doctor, an attentive administrator, and a humble leader. He was courageous, and his actions in Java were those of a bona fide hero. But he was not a seasoned sailor, a possessor of navigation skills, or ever in command of a ship. He took great care to follow U.S. Navy regulations which, to say the least, would not have sanctioned the mutiny implied in the statement above. In contrast, G.N. Prass, the captain of *MV Janssens*, was a seasoned seaman. An intelligent man like Wassell would have seen that immediately. Instead, we prefer to believe the firsthand account of the well-respected war correspondent, William Dunn, who was also aboard *Janssens* and who spoke often to Wassell, Goggins, and Prass during their ten days at sea. Dunn said the following:

"Doc Wassell was one of the finest men I ever met and evidently a very competent doctor, but I can attest personally that he never in his wildest dreams even considered taking command of the ship. It's just as certain that if he had tried, Captain Praas would have had him in the brig immediately."^{ix}

The records that we found did not agree conclusively on who accompanied Wassell to Fremantle aboard *Janssens*. The eight men highlighted in red in Annex 2 are, in our opinion, the most likely to have done so.

If you have more information, questions, or corrections, please contact our biographer, [Steve Wade](#).

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Annex 1

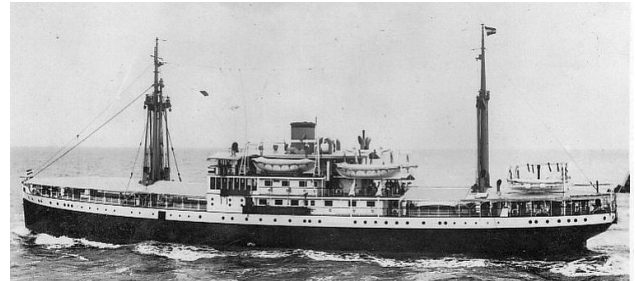
NEI Naval and Air support in the Battle for Australia

Researched and written by Doug Hurst MBE

MV Janssens

The best known of the 28 Dutch Merchant ships that carried over 1,000,000 tons of supplies and 100,000 troops to New Guinea. The *Janssens* was a civilian supply and accommodation ship for Dutch submarines, winning fame for its daring operations.

Many ships became well-known to allied fighting men. The *Balikpapan* served throughout the war, ferrying troops. Even better known was the *Janssens*, commanded throughout by the tall, thin, unflappable Captain G.N. Prass. She sailed under charter to the Dutch Navy as an accommodation and supply ship for Dutch submarines, but always with a civilian crew. Prass once took his ship, with a scratch crew and without a pilot, through a mine field in pitch darkness and heavy rain, only to be attacked by Japanese zeros next day, taking many casualties and sustaining considerable damage, but still making it to a safe port. For most of the war, the *Janssens*' only armament was two machine guns salvaged from a wrecked Catalina flying boat.

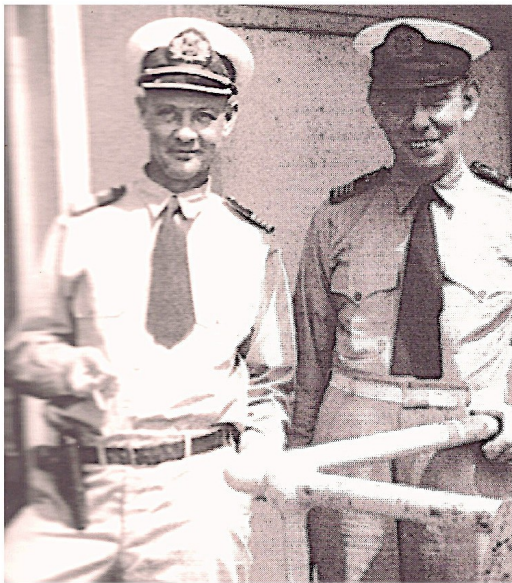


Imagine 450 passengers aboard this ship.

Figure 2: Source: [The Java Gold blog](#) by Robert Kingsley

Gerrit Nicolaas Prass, captain of the Dutch vessel, MV *Janssens* which took aboard U.S. Dr. Corydon Wassell and eight wounded sailors from *Marby* and USS *Houston* (CA-30) and carried them, and several hundred other evacuees from the southern Java port of Tjilatjap, then a part of the Netherlands East Indies (now Cilacap, Java, Indonesia) to the safety of Fremantle, Australia. At the time, the Japanese were invading Java. Following an air attack on the ship on their second day at sea, *Janssens* put into the fishing port of Pacitan east of Tjilatjap. Some 200 aboard left the ship fearing it would be sunk. Those departing included much of the Javanese crew. For the rest of the ten-day voyage, the ship's First Machinist and chief engineer, Jos van Klaveren, labored tirelessly below decks to keep the ship's only engine running. Loss of the engine would have rendered them easy prey for the Japanese.

Two Other Heros of the 2nd Escape



Janssens' Captain Gerrit N. Prass (left) and Chief Engineer, Jos van Klaveren.

Figure 3: Source: [The Java Gold blog](#)

Captain Prass was born 25 Mar 1901 in the port town of Den Helder on the North Sea halfway up the Dutch coast. He began his naval career crossing the Atlantic to New York at the age of 17 as crew aboard the Dutch Merchantman, SS *Nieuw Amsterdam*. When he arrived in New York on 16 Aug 1918, he was already 6 foot 3 inches tall and had blonde hair and gray eyes. He had just completed the first leg of a voyage around the globe to Batavia, the capital of the Netherlands East Indies (NEI; today's Jakarta, Indonesia). He would spend much of the rest of his life plowing the seas between

Holland, NEI, Australia, and many other countries. In 1936, he married Jannetje Wezelman with whom he had four children. Captain Prass died on 26 Aug 1989 near his home in Margate, Petrie, Queensland, Australia.

Research on the wounded cared by Dr. Wassell on the USS Marblehead, June 2024

Annex 2 - WOUNDED TRACKER TABLE

60	Total Wounded Sailor - all Three Groups	Service #	Sailor Fates and Trajectories	Most likely to have been with Wassell on Janssens: 8 men
23	Marby^x Group 1 to Hospital Djoekakarta^{xi}			
1	ANDERSON, William, SM2c	2794356	REC ^{xii} USS <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; Img ^{xiii} 4; RoC Ln 1; REC RS Fremantle 13 Mar 1942^{xiv} fr <i>Tulsa</i> for treatment Hollywood Hospital in Perth, AU; TRAN 27 Mar 1942 to US via American vessel for treatment; REC USS <i>Malanao AG-44</i> on 10 Jul 42 from RS San Francisco.	Yes #1
2	CARPENTER, Herman Lansing, SC3c	3562020	REC USS <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; Img 4; RoC Ln 10; Img8, Ln17 REC RS Fremantle 4 Mar 1942 fr <i>Tulsa</i> for treatment Hollywood Hospital in Perth, AU; Ln18 TRAN 27 Mar 1942 to USA via American vessel for treatment.	No
3	CHRISTENSEN, Henry Dwaine, CMM	3161326	REC USS <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; Img 4; RoC Ln 13; Img8, Ln21 REC RS Fremantle 4 Mar 1942 fr <i>Tulsa</i> for treatment Hollywood Hospital in Perth, AU; per RS Fremantle Img 28; Ln8 states TRAN to USA via American vessel for treatment.	No
4	CONKLIN, Leo Ethan Jr., Sea1c	3115103	REC USS <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; Ln22 REC Fremantle 5 Mar 1942 fr <i>Tulsa</i> ; Ln23 TRAN 27 Mar 1942 to USA via American vessel	No
5	CORBITT, George Albert, Sea1c	2582086	REC USS <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; died of wounds 10 Feb 1942 per <i>Tulsa</i> Img8 Ln10	No
6	FRANCIS, Melvin Russell, S2c	3686750	Taken to Tjilatjap twice; believed to have left on <i>Janssens</i> w/Wassell; Img 10 Lns13 n 14 RS Fremantle has him being Rec fr <i>Tulsa</i> ; he may have been TRAN fr <i>Janssens</i> to <i>Tulsa</i> on arrival 13 Mar 1942 and then TRAN to <i>Tulsa</i> B4 Fremantle. Played himself in the movie, "TSDW."	Yes #2
7	HO, Pao San, Matt2c	4985169	Cited multiple times by his real name in the well-researched <i>Escape from Java</i> by John J. Domagalski as having been on <i>Janssens</i> . Fictionalized by Hilton in <i>The Story of Dr. Wassell</i> (all names were except Wassell's) as the wounded "Mess Boy" Sun in <i>The Story of Dr. Wassell</i> .	Yes #3
8	HOPKINS, Benjamin Grover Jr., Sea1c	3166805	During 2 nd escape attempt, Wassell went ahead to find a ship. During his absence, Hopkins decided he was too ill to continue. He was left behind in the care of his Javanese nurse. The others boarded <i>Janssens</i> . It was then that Wassell learned of Benny's decision, but <i>Janssens</i> had to sail. Benny was later captured, sent to Orio PoW camp in Japan, and forced to build enemy warships. He was liberated in Sep 45.	No
9	HUNTER, Harold Leroy, MM2c	3820854	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img5, Ln28; msabbeker.nl states he we a passenger on <i>Abbekerk</i> ; i.e., with Oscar Rudie; later REC eff 31 Mar 1942 aboard USS <i>Talamanca</i> Img 55 fr US Naval Attache office, Melbourne, AU FFT to hospital in the U.S.; per <i>Talamanca</i> Img 75, TRAN eff 21 Apr 1942 to US Naval Hospital, Mare Island, CA; discharged 7 Mar 44, perhaps due to his injuries; died at age 88 on 2 Jan 2009 in Canby, Clackamas, OR.	No
10	JOYNER, Walter George, F2c	2582921	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img5, Ln29; Walter Joyner appears to have escaped Java on <i>Sturgeon</i> according to what he told the Ray Kester who was on <i>Marby</i> before, during and after the bombing and for the long voyage home. He later became the president/secretary for the reunions of the ship and for other USAF ships and ultimately the entire USAF ^{xv} .	No
11	KIHL, Tracy Gerald, SK3c	3287467	The late R.D. Kester, <i>Marby</i> Radioman, and later president/secretary of its reunions, those of other USAF ships, and ultimately the USAF itself, in a 26 May 2013 email to Kihl's daughter, Jane, Kester said "It is highly probable that Kihl was evacuated to Fremantle via MS <i>Janssens</i> . I say this because of the known: He was not aboard MS <i>Abbekerk</i> with Oscar Rudie, not aboard USS <i>Sturgeon</i> with Walt Joyner and Bob Clark, and not aboard <i>Pecos</i> which was sunk." However, Kihl had been REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img5, Ln30, and later <i>Tulsa</i> made multiple trips to Australia with evacuees aboard and a 26 Mar 1942 <i>Tulsa</i> RoC Ln 7 states he was TRAN to ComBaseForUSAF for assignment on 11 Mar 1942.	No
12	KNIPP, Stanley Wayne, SC2c	2658540	Died of wounds 7 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap, Java.	No
13	KNISLEY, Kenneth Melburn, CWT	2996907	Died of wounds on 6 Feb 1942 in or near Tjilatjap, Java, NEI	No
14	LEINWEBER, Joseph Rudolph, Sea2c	2435876	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb per MR Img6, RoC Ln9; per RS Fremantle Img12, Ln8 Rec fr <i>Tulsa</i> 13 Mar 1942 for care at Hollywood Hospital, Perth.	Yes #4
15	MCCURDY, William Aurnee, Sea1c	2725790	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per MR Img6, RoC Ln13; per RS Fremantle Img12 Rec fr <i>Tulsa</i> on 6 Mar 1942 for treatment Hollywood Hospital, Perth; per Img 12 Ln13 TRAN 27 Mar 1942 to USA via American vessel for treatment. McCurdy's wounds healed and he was reassigned. His final ship was destroyer USS <i>Sands (DD-243/APD-13)</i> . On the morning of 29 Jan 1944, while landing amphibious troops on the beaches of Los Negros Island, Admiralty Islands northeast of Papua New Guinea, William was killed by heavy enemy crossfire.	Yes #5
16	O'SHAY, Donald Edward, WT1c	2147468	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img6, Ln15	No
17	POE, John DeWitt Jr., SK1c	3559991	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img7, Ln18	No
18	ROGERS, George Hiram, CMM	3928340	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img7, Ln22; per RS Fremantle, RoC Ln4, REC 5 Mar 1942 fr <i>Tulsa</i> for treatment at Hollywood Hospital, Perth.	No
19	ROUISEE, Raymond Victor, SK3c	2125378	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img7, Ln23	No
20	STRATTON, Stanley Cramer, HA1c	2822963	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 per Img7, Ln29	No
21	TSU, Billie, Matt2c	4985191	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap per Img8, Ln1	No
22	YIH, Sun Ki, Matt2c	4976279	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap per Img8, Ln8; per Img16 Ln 15, REC RS Fremantle 6 Mar 1942 for treatment Hollywood Hospital Rudie was not on the 'Additional List,' but he was wounded. Though he left on a different ship, <i>MV Abbekerk</i> , per msabbeker.nl and his own statement, Rudie was with Wassell and other wounded sailors in the British convoy from Djoekakarta to Tjilatjap for the second escape on 3 Mar 1942, and had been with Dr. Wassell since 7 Feb. Wassell put him in the lead car in the British convoy which gave him the opportunity to board <i>Abbekerk</i> . He was the ninth man so it would be <u>incorrect</u> to say that he was not among the sailors that "Dr. Wassell successfully got to safety." Wassell got him to the ship, just a different ship, thus we have marked him "No, but" even though he did not sail on <i>Janssens</i> .	No, but...
23	RUDIE, Oscar Magnus, MM2c	4013546		

Research on the wounded cared by Dr. Wassell on the USS Marblehead, June 2024

Annex 2 - WOUNDED TRACKER TABLE

26 Marby Group 2 to Hospital in Tjilatjap				
1	GOGGINS, William Benard, CDR	Officer	Retained in a dispensary in Tjilatjap, Java until he left on Janssens on 13 Mar 1942 w/Wassell to Fremantle, AU	Yes #6
2	GOODHUE, Arthur Archibald, LT	Officer ^{xvi}	1942 press reports indicate that he escaped "on a Dutch steamer" and "with five ^{xvii} other men"; however, a war correspondent Dunn, also on <i>MV Janssens</i> , stated that there was only one officer, Goggins, in the group other than Wassell himself. Goodhue survived WW2 and died 2 Nov 1994.	No
3	COBURN, Charles Hamond Jr., Ens.	Officer	Evacuated on oiler <i>USS Pecos</i> . ^{xviii} He survived the sinking of <i>Pecos</i> on 1 Mar 1942 by planes from the Japanese carrier <i>Sōryū</i> .	No
4	○ ^{stx} ANDREW, Marion Edgar, F1c	3721565	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
5	○ ANSTINE, Keith Clark, F2c	3859050	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
6	AUXIER, Gerald Thomas, MM2c	3421910	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln2; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; TRAN fr <i>Tulsa</i> to ComBaseForceUSAF ^{xx} based in Fremantle, AU for assignment.	No
7	BELL, John William Howard ^{xxi} , F1c	2386139	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln4; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; TRAN fr <i>Tulsa</i> to Commander Base Force Asiatic Fleet (Fremantle) for assignment.	No
8	○ BRANDT, David Samuel, Sea1c	3760911	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
9	BROWN, Frank Addison, CWT	3595927	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln7; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; Appears to have died in Java or enroute to Australia by sea.	No
10	BUCHANAN, Eris Earnest, F1c	3467690	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln9; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; MR RS San Francisco Img 1717, Ln 28 shows Eris Earnest Buchanan F1c REC 31 Mar 1942 with no additional records from <i>Marby</i> via troop transport USS Mount Vernon (AP-22). Survived WWII; Died 3 Dec 1992 in Arkansas.	No
11	○ BUTLER, Z L, Cox	3465886	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
12	CARVER, Robert Allan Jr, MM2c	3932754	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln11; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; RS Fremantle Img 8; Ln19 Rec fr <i>Tulsa</i> for treatment Hollywood Hosp, Perth, AU. TRAN by RS Fremantle 1 Apr 1942 to ComBaseForSouthwestPacUSAF for duty.	No
13	CHARITON, Donald Ellsworth, MM2c	3720903	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln12; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap. His son's biography says he was evacuated by Wassell, however that does not necessarily show that he was on <i>Janssens</i> when his evacuation occurred. No RoC documents this. <i>Tulsa</i> may have been more likely. Regardless, like Rudie, Chariton was among the sailors that "Dr. Wassell successfully got to safety."	Yes #7
14	CLARK, Robert Harris, F1c	3760959	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img4; Ln14; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; per <i>Tulsa</i> MR Img 9, RoC Ln13 Clark was TRAN 11 Mar 1942 to ComBaseForceUSAF Fremantle MRs. He appears to have escaped Java on USS Sturgeon according to what he told the Ray Kester.	No
15	○ CLEPHANE, Henry Clifford, Sea1c	2916194	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
16	○ DAHLMER, Raymond M., EM2c	3286025	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
17	HAM, Paul Hilton, Sea1c	3468178	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img5; Ln22; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; per <i>Tulsa</i> Img10, Ln29, Ham TRAN to ComBaseForceUSAF USAF for assignment.	No
18	HENDERSON, William Riley, Bkr3c	2723447	REC fr <i>Marby</i> by USS <i>Tulsa</i> Img5; Ln23; 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap; <i>Tulsa</i> Img 11, Ln1 TRAN 11 Mar 1942 to ComBaseForceUSAF USAF for assignment	No
19	○ HOFF, Howard Lawrence, WT2c	2795261	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
20	○ MAHONE, Maurice F., Sea2c	3603656	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
21	MARSH, LeMoine Francis, Bkr3c	3162517	31 Mar <i>Marby</i> MR Img 163 lists Marsh as wounded in action 4 Feb and sent 6 Feb to Tjilatjap hospital. USS <i>Tulsa</i> RoC Ln13 , 26 Mar MR Img11 says per RoC Ln15 that Marsh was TRAN eff 11 Mar to ComBaseForceUSAF, Fremantle; then to US Naval Attache's office, Melbourne, then to USS Talamanca for transport to Naval Hospital, Mare Island, CA, and then to RS San Francisco, RS San Diego, and USS Henry T. Allen (APA-15).	No
22	○ MURCH, Douglas A., SM1c	2230327	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
23	○ NICHOLSON, D. V., F1c	3561209	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
24	○ NOBLE, Charles Wesley Jr., F2c	2017482	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No
25	PADEN, John Alfred, MM2c	3759360	Evacuated from Tjilatjap aboard <i>Tulsa</i> ; REC Fremantle 11 Mar 1942 for treatment in Hollywood Hospital, Perth.	No
26	○ PEDERSEN, Francis Neilsen, F3c	3762882	Returned to <i>Marby</i> for 13 Feb 1942 departure to the Ceylon, South Africa, Brazil & NY, NY, USA per <i>Marby</i> Muster Rolls	No

Research on the wounded cared by Dr. Wassell on the USS Marblehead, June 2024

Annex 2 - WOUNDED TRACKER TABLE

11 Houston men to Army Hospital, Tjilatjap				
1	BORGHETTI, Thomas Jr., FC1c	2996421	In the first evacuation, non-ambulatory men such as Tom Borghetti (shattered elbow and leg), were not allowed aboard the ships in Tjilatjap. Wassell and nine men returned a few days later in a British road convoy. Borghetti, was in the lead vehicle , arrived early, and boarded USS Tulsa (PG-22), which had medical facilities. Early on 1 Mar 1942, Tulsa, Asheville, Lark, and Isabel left Tjilatjap for Australia. Asheville was sunk enroute, but the rest reached Fremantle. ^{xxii} Borghetti was REC RS Fremantle Img 7 Ln11 on 9 Mar 1942 fr <i>Tulsa</i> ; TRAN 27 Mar 1942 fr RS Fremantle Img 7 Ln12 to US on American vessel. He survived WWII. Wassell left Java 3 Mar 1942 on the Dutch freighter <i>Janssens</i> with nine non-ambulatory sailors.	No
2	CLARKSTON, Leonard O'Neal, Sea1c	3468560	TRAN 5 Feb 1942 from Houston (per Img 18) to Army Hospital Tjilatjap; REC 6 Feb 1942 in Tjilatjap by USS <i>Tulsa</i> per Img4; Ln15; however, Ancestry.com records indicate that the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Unaccounted-for Remains, Group A (Recoverable), 1941-1975 indicated that he died on 7 Feb 1942 in "Indonesia", meaning NEI; circumstances unclear. He was reinterred in the Philippines.	No
3	KOENIG, Vincent C., SK2c	3164832	TRAN to Army Hosp Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942 per Houston Img19, Ln29; Records to <i>Tulsa</i> ; evacuated on <i>USS Pecos</i> . He died in her 1 Mar 1942 sinking.	No
4	KOHL, William P., GM3c	3286304	TRAN via USS Mt. Vernon to Army Hosp Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942 per Houston Img19, Ln30; Records to <i>Tulsa</i> ; Rec <i>Tulsa</i> on per Img11 Ln 10; 11 Mar 1942 TRAN to ComBaseForceUSAF for assignment. The USS Houston Association states that he was WIA-2/5/42 and transferred to Petronella Dutch Army Hospital, Djoejakarta, Java. He was evacuated on <i>USS Sturgeon</i> which left Tjilatjap with <i>USS Stingray</i> on 20 Feb escorting <i>USS Holland</i> and <i>USS Black Hawk</i> . USS Houston Association records say Kohl was forwarded by RS Fremantle to the U.S. aboard an American vessel.	No
5	KRAUS, Robert Ambrose, Cox	2999188	TRAN to Army Hosp Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942 per Houston Img20, Ln2; records to <i>Tulsa</i> ; evac on <i>Tulsa</i> ; Rec Fremantle 13 Mar 1942 per Img 12, Ln4 for treatment Hollywood Hospital, Perth, for treatment; per Ln5, TRAN 27 Mar 1942 to USA on American vessels. Note that the USS Houston Association indicates a different but inconsistent trajectory.	Yes #8
6	MARSH, Samuel Joseph, S2c	3167481	TRAN to Army Hosp Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942 per Houston Img20, Ln5; records to <i>Tulsa</i> , but he ended up on <i>USS Pecos</i> and he died in the sinking of the ship. USS Houston Association says he transferred to "Petronella Dutch Army Hospital, Djoejakarta" but gives no date/place of death.	No
7	POIRIER, Roger P., TC1c	2122992	TRAN to Army Hosp Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942 per Houston Img20, Ln10; records to <i>USS Tulsa</i> per <i>Houston</i> Img 77 and he died in Tjilatjap hospital on 13 Feb 1942, but USS Houston Association indicates that was "WIA 2/5/42 and transferred to "Petronella Dutch Army Hospital in Djoejakarta" and that he died aboard USS Houston on 12 Feb 1942.	No
8	SMITH, Eugene F., Sea1c	3857125	TRAN 5 Feb 1942 via <i>USS Mt. Vernon</i> to Hosp Tjilatjap per Houston MR Img21, RoC Ln20; records to <i>Tulsa</i> ; TRAN 11 Mar 1942 to COMBASEFORUSAF for assignment, however, the 11 Mar transfer may have been a transfer of records to Tulsa. USS Houston Association indicates that he was "WIA 2/5/42 and transferred to Petronella Dutch Army Hospital in Djoejakarta" and that he died in Tjilatjap on 4 Feb 1942. That date and place of death are contradictory to the POW Status column, and he is more likely to have died on 5 Feb in Djoejakarta.	No
9	WHALEY, Robert Elroy, EM2c	3820512	Whaley was TRAN to Army Hospital Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942 per Houston MR Image22, RoC Ln3; his records went to USS Tulsa. Per USS Houston Association he was later TRAN to submarine USS <i>Sturgeon</i> which, with <i>USS Stingray</i> , left Tjilatjap for Fremantle, Australia on 20 Feb as escorts for USS <i>Holland</i> and <i>USS Black Hawk</i> . According to the crew records was later forwarded by RS Fremantle to the U.S. aboard an American vessel. ^{xxiii}	No
10	○ SIZEMORE, MARVIN ^{xxiv} , Sea2c	2874154	TRAN to Army Hosp Tjilatjap 9 Feb 1942 Houston Img26, Ln3; records to <i>Tulsa</i> . His hospital stay appears to have been brief. On 10 Feb Houston was back in Tjilatjap and Marvin was at the hospital having a rash checked when Houston hurriedly left port on hearing of an imminent attack. Marvin was left behind. Houston was sunk on the night of 28 Feb. Seven hundred forty-two men died that night or in the POW camps that followed. <i>Tulsa</i> 's and other MRS lead one to believe that <i>Tulsa</i> took Sizemore to Australia. Not so! The Japanese took the 19-year-old prisoner and worked him for 3 ½ years building the Burma-Thailand "Death Railway". Each of its 258-miles cost 411 men lost their lives but Sizemore refused to die. Liberated in Sep 45, he pursued a career as policemen in Hamilton, Ohio where he died at the age of 101.	No
11	NIES, Dick K., Sea1c	3421046	<i>Houston</i> Img 74, Ln8 indicates he died in Tjilatjap 5 Feb 1942, possibly as he was being offloaded to hospital.	No

A Trio Reunites on Treasure Island

(Paraphrased from a 1945 *Oakland Tribune* article.)

On 20 Feb 1945, three sailors held a mini reunion on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. Two of them had begun life worlds apart, but their fates became deeply knotted in a powder handling room aboard the light cruiser *USS Marblehead* as she fought off swarms of Japanese bombers on 4 Feb 1942 in the Flores Sea north of Java. Both were critically burned when the searing flame of a 500-pound bomb swept through the powder room. Two days later, on stretchers, they left the ship for a three-hour train ride inland to Dutch Hospital in Djoejakarta, Java. Dutch and Javanese doctors and nurses would provide excellent medical care in the coming days, but it was Navy doctor Corydon Wassell who would get them out of the way of the invading Japanese and on to safety in Australia.

Pao San Ho was born in Hankou, China in 1911, and Herman Lansing Carpenter was born in Pittsburg, Texas in 1907. At the time of their bombing three years earlier, Ho, then 31, was a Mess Attendant 2nd Class^{xxv} and Carpenter, then 35, was a Ship's Cook 3rd Class. By the time of the reunion, they'd risen to Ship's Steward 1st Class and Boatswain's Mate 1st class, respectively.

Ho had arrived in the U.S. only three weeks earlier. He would soon become a naturalized American. At the time of the reunion, however, his wife and three children were trapped in Shanghai and at the mercy of the Japanese. He had not seen them since 1940.

The third man present, besides the *Oakland Tribune* reporter, was Patrick J. Mallon. He had not been aboard *Marby* during the bombing (though the reporter assumed he had). He was an old friend who Ho and Carpenter had met on one of *Marby's* many visits to Shanghai before the war. When they first met him, Mallon was a Pharmacist's Mate 1c attached to the Fourth Marines Regimental Hospital D in Shanghai. Occasionally, he had been assigned to cover the pharmaceutical needs of *Marby's* crew during her pre-war visits to the great city. By the time of the reunion, Mallon was a Warrant Chief Pharmacist assigned to a Navy Dispensary on Treasure Island.

The reunited friends had much to discuss for they had not seen each other for several years. Ho recalled little of what had happened when their battle station was hit, but Carpenter, who had helped rescue Ho despite his own wounds, filled in the blanks. "Ho was a powder handler, and I was a shell handler," the boatswain's mate said. "We took a direct hit and most of the fellows on our battle station were killed outright." The article did not detail either man's memories of Dr. Wassell, but both knew that they owed Wassell their lives. Still, it seems unlikely that Ho would have shared the other unique bond that he had with the doctor from Arkansas.

Ho's birthplace, Hankou, was one of three prosperous industrial cities that adjoined each other at the confluence of the Han and Yangtze Rivers in central China, 450 miles inland from the East China Sea. Its sister cities were Hanyang and Wuchang^{xxvi}. In the latter, in 1913, Dr. Wassell, then a missionary, took over management of a hospital which he would run for a decade. Following the death of his first wife in 1926, and fed up with the Chinese civil war, Wassell, his second wife, and his four children returned to Arkansas in 1927. In the summer of that year, the *USS Marblehead* sailed up the Yangtze in a show of force to protect U.S. commercial and missionary interests in the area. It is unclear whether either man knew of her visit.

During his decade in Wuchang, Wassell became acquainted with another young Chinese man named Ho. More on this other Ho shortly, but to better understand the context, the following timeline of their parallel trajectories might be helpful.

Research on the wounded cared by Dr. Wassell on the USS Marblehead, June 2024

By Steve Wade

Pao San HO	Ho-Wassell Timeline	
		Corydon McAlmont Wassell
	4-Jul-1884	Wassell is born in Little Rock, Arkansas.
	1909	Wassell graduates as doctor from the University of Arkansas and opens a practice in the Arkansas village of Tillar.
Pao San Ho is born in Hankou, Hupei Province, China	25-Jun-1911	Hankou is one of three adjoining cities (Wuchang and Hanyang are the other two) on the banks of the Yangtse River 450 miles inland from the East China Sea.
	24-Dec-1911	Wassell marries Irene Yarnell, a schoolteacher in Tillar.
Pao San Ho is 2 years old.	1913	Arkansas-born John W. Cline, President of Soochow University in China, visits Tillar while on leave and addresses the town's Episcopal congregation about humanitarian needs in China. The Wassells are in the audience.
Pao San Ho is 13 years old in 1924.	1913 to 1924	Months later, the Wassells leave for missionary work in China. Wassell also joins the U.S. Naval Reserve. For the next decade, Wassell runs a hospital in Wuchang. He also befriends the "other Ho" and recommends that he join the Navy's Yangtse River Patrol.
	1924	The Wassells move to continue missionary work in Kukiang, China, a river port city north of Hong Kong. By this time, Wassell is a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve.
Pao San Ho is 15 years old in 1926.	28-May-1926	Wassell's wife, Irene, dies by accidental drowning at a resort in Kuling, China leaving him and four children behind.
	1-Jan-1927	Wassell marries missionary nurse Madeline Edith Day in Wuchang, Hupei, China.
It is unclear if Pao San Ho,16, knows of Marblehead's presence in his hometown area, but he certainly has no inkling of her role in his future.	1927	Fed up with war, the Wassells return to Arkansas. That summer, <i>Marblehead</i> spends 2 months up the Yangtse protecting American commercial/missionary interests in the tri-city area.
	1929	The Great Depression ensues and hits Arkansas the hardest. Wassell joins the Civilian Conservation Corps, treating patients and fighting malaria.
Ho, 25, joins the U.S. Navy in Shanghai and reports aboard the Yangtse River Patrol gunboat <i>USS Monocacy (PG-20)</i> .	1936	Wassell, already a U.S. Navy Reservist, assumes regular commissioned duty.
Ho, 28, joins <i>USS Marblehead</i>	22 Jan 1939	
	1940	Wassell is serving on a submarine inspection board in Key West, FL.
Ho, 27, is severely burned in the 4 Feb 1942 bombing of the <i>USS Marblehead</i>	Sep-1941 thru early Feb-1942	Wassell is ordered to San Francisco for forwarding to the U.S. Naval base in Cavite, Philippines. On his intended date of sailing from 'Frisco', Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. His orders are changed to Java, Netherlands East Indies, which he reaches via Australia. On arrival in Surabaya, Java, he is ordered to Petronella Hospital in Djoejakarta, Java to assume custody of wounded sailors off <i>U.S. cruisers Marblehead</i> and <i>Houston</i> , which were bombed on 4 Feb 1942.
	7-Feb-1942	Wassell meets the men who are his responsibility, including a silent Chinese steward named Pao San Ho, later fictionalized as 'Sun' in The Story of Dr. Wassell .
Ho is among those left behind with Wassell after the 1 st escape.	mid-Feb-1942	First escape of <i>Marby/Houston</i> sailors is completed, but Wassell remains behind with eight non-ambulatory sailors.
After weeks of silence, Ho reacts as Wassell speaks to him in Chinese.	1-Mar-1942	As he plans the 2 nd escape, Wassell checks on his wounded men. The fictional 'Sun' awakes as Wassell reaches his bed. He then shocks Wassell in the passage below.
A Unique Bond Across Culture, Space and Time taken from a passage in The Story of Dr. Wassell, page 65.		
"The doctor said in Chinese ... 'You are like a Chinese boy I once knew in China. You are very like him - even in appearance. Many people in my country think that all Chinese people look alike, but of course that is not so to me, because I have lived in China many years. This boy served me at a mission station in Wuchang. He was a nice boy, and I was deeply attached to him. And he was just like you.'		
"Sun answered: 'Yes, he was very like me. He was my brother.'		
"What?"		
"Then Sun explained. It was not such an extreme coincidence that Sun had become a mess boy on one of the Yangtse gunboats of the American Navy. The doctor did not remember making the recommendation, but he had such regard for Sun's brother that he would doubtless have done so without hesitation.		
"So, you are here because of me,' said the doctor, hoping this would make Sun smile.		
"'Yes,' replied Sun, but he did not smile."		
	3-Mar-1942	Wassell departs Tjilatjap with Ho and seven other men aboard <i>MV Janssens</i> .
	13-Mar-1942	<i>MV Janssens</i> safely arrives in Fremantle, Australia

FOOTNOTES

ⁱ *Marby* was the nickname the sailors used when affectionately referring to USS Marblehead (CL-12).

ⁱⁱ Despite the name of the battle, the bombing of *Marby* and *Houston* did not take place in Makassar Strait but rather in the Flores Sea south of the Kangean Islands, roughly 186.3 nautical miles (214 miles) or 5 hours and 19 minutes at *Marby*'s top speed of 35 knots, south of the southern border of Makassar Strait.

ⁱⁱⁱ Note that although he was an experienced physician, Wassell's primary role was the general comfort and welfare of his charges, not their medical care. That was well provided for by Dutch and Javanese doctors, nurses, and other staff at the hospitals. Of course, as the days of Feb and Mar 1942 wore on, the threats to the "general comfort and welfare" of all the men, Wassell included, quickly escalated.

^{iv} *Marby*'s Executive Officer, Cdr. William Bernard Goggins, was badly wounded with burns over much of his body, but he refused being sent inland to Djoejakarta believing that such a move had a higher probability of being left behind on Java. He was right!

^v Per *Hauling Bombs, Bullets, Beer and McArthur*, 13 Jun 2013 [The Java Gold blog post](#) by Robert Kingsley, a great source on the Pacific War.

^{vi} Exact casualty numbers for the doomed ships of the [United States Asiatic Fleet](#) and [American-British-Dutch-Australian Command](#) are impossible to gather because so many Allied warships were sunk in the [Dutch East Indies campaign](#) (at least 24 total) and many of those ships had already picked up survivors of other sunken ships and then were also sunk by the Japanese hours or days later.

^{vii} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Isabel states that USS Isabel arrived in Australia on 7 Mar 1942. Tulsa's Wikipedia page states that Tulsa, Isabel, and Lark arrived in Australia together. This seems plausible. Fremantle is 1,510.5 miles from Tjilatjap. At 11.4 knots, Tulsa's normal speed, the journey would take 5 days, 12 hours, and 30 minutes and have her arriving at 12:30 p.m. on 7 Mar 1942. She was said to have made one course correction, but even so, she would still have arrived on 7 March.

^{viii} The same may have been the case for some men in the *Houston* Group, but this is harder to confirm because *Houston* was sunk a month before her 31 Mar MRs were due to be prepared.

^{ix} This sentiment was independently expressed in [Escape from Java](#) as coming from Dutch Lt. Herman Jorissen, formerly of a torpedo squadron deployed in a futile effort to stop the Japanese. He recalled hearing senior Dutch officers aboard discussing taking control of *Janssens*. "Prass would have none of it" and made it very clear who was in charge of his ship.

^x The use of the abbreviation *Marby* herein in lieu of *USS Marblehead (CL-12)* is to conserve space. "*Marby*" was also how many of the crew affectionately referred to the ship.

^{xi} Djoejakarta is the old Dutch name of today's Yogyakarta. We use that name throughout this and other documents. Djoejakarta should not be confused with Indonesia's current capital, Jakarta, which was Batavia in 1942.

^{xii} REC = "Received" usually by a RS (Receiving Ship or Shore Station); REC is usually followed by the word "by." The antonym of REC is TRAN (or sometimes TRANS) meaning "Transferred" and is usually followed by the word "to."

^{xiii} Img = scanned image containing a muster roll ("MR") or a report of changes ("RoC").

^{xiv} The date of *Janssens*' arrival in Fremantle.

^{xv} USAF pertains to U.S. Asiatic Fleet and not the U.S. Air Force which did not come into existence until 1947.

^{xvi} Note that officers rarely appear in Muster Rolls and Reports of Changes. This makes them difficult to track. Thankfully, there are only three on these lists.

^{xvii} This suggests a total of six men with Wassell in the end, but that contradicts other sources, e.g., 28 Feb 1942 Fireside Chat, President Roosevelt indicated that twelve was the number of men that Wassell took out on *Janssens*.

^{xviii} *Pecos* was sunk by aircraft from Japanese carrier *Sōryū* on 1 Mar 1942. Coburn was apparently rescued, but by which vessel is unclear - *USS Whipple* and *USS Edsall* both seem to have picked up survivors. He survived WWII.

^{xix} Men in the Table with a red circle (O) preceding their name returned to *Marby* prior to her 13 Feb 1942 commencement of the long journey home. All of them appear on the second list of men off *Marby*, i.e., the group that went to hospital in Tjilatjap. This suggests that their wounds were less severe and treatable in a smaller town with less sophisticated facilities. The exception was Cdr. Goggins who, despite burns over much of his body, forceful resisted the possibility of being left in Java. Unfortunately, his wounds did not heal rapidly enough for him to rejoin *Marby* prior to her departure, hence his presence with Wassell in the last group out of Java.

^{xx} This administrative unit took various forms in MRs depending on who was doing the writing and rapidly deteriorating situation with the Asiatic fleet. We have pared it down to

^{xxi} Erroneously listed in the *Marby* MR as *Joseph* William Howard Bell.

^{xxii} http://www.usshouston.org/BlueBonnetFiles/2014/bb_apr2014.pdf

^{xxiii} [CrewRoster6 \(usshouston.org\)](#)

^{xxiv} [LINK 1](#) and [LINK 2](#). These two links provide a glimpse of Marvin Sizemore's inspiring story of survival.

^{xxv} In 1943, in a significant step in addressing the racial segregation and inequality prevalent in the U.S. Navy, "Mess Attendant" was changed to "Steward's Mate", the name of the branch changed to Steward Branch, and the word 'officer's' was dropped from rate titles. Despite these changes, full petty officer status was not extended to stewards until 1950.

^{xxvi} In 1926, Hankou, Hanyang and Wuchang officially merged into one city named Wuhan, the capital of Hupei Province. Little more than a century later Wuhan would become known worldwide as the birthplace of the COVID virus.