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OPERATION OF THE COAST GUARD CUTTER HUDSON IN THE  
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR.

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Saturday, April 2, 1898, left the Battery, New York, (Barge Office), at 2:00 p.m., for Norfolk Navy Yard. Sunday, April 3, 1898, arrived at Norfolk Navy Yard at 5:00 p.m. Found the Revenue Steamers MANNING, WOODBURY, WINDOM, HAMILTON and MORRILL there.

Saturday, April 23, 1898, left Norfolk Navy Yard about 1:00 p.m. for Key West. Anchored under Cape Henry that afternoon. Sunday, April 24th left Cape Henry for the South at 6:20 p.m. Monday, April 25th, about 10:00 p.m. anchored one mile south of Cape Lookout Light in four fathoms of water.

Tuesday, April 26th about 8:30 a.m. up anchor and resumed voyage. Ran into and passed through a ninety mile hurricane during the night. The seas were terrific, breaking against the house of the HUDSON with such violence that there was over one-half inch of salt on the engine cylinders the next morning, from the sea water squirting through the key holes in the engine room doors and from leaks around the doors.

A barrel of molasses and a keg of vinegar broke up in the fore hold during the storm, this mixture came aft through the bilges and washed over the fire room floor plates, making it almost impossible for the firemen to keep their feet. When the firemen came off watch they were a sorry sight, dripping with vinegar and molasses, coal dust and ashes.

Wednesday, April 27th passed in by Cape Fear sea buoy at 7:00 a.m. Arrived at Wilmington, N.C. at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday and Friday, April 28th and 29th, repairing. On account of the storm had to break out all store rooms and lockers, dry out all bedding and clothing and replace stores.

Saturday, April 30th, coaling. 1:50 p.m. steamed down the river. 4:40 p.m. out over the Bar. Sunday, May 1st. 5:20 p.m. anchored in Saint Andrews Sound for a harbor. Monday, May 2nd. 5:30 a.m. underway. 9:25 a.m. in over St. John's Bar. At noon arrived at Jacksonville, coaled ship.

Tuesday, May 3rd. 5:00 a.m. down the river. 7:45 a.m. out over the Bar. Passed Cape Canaveral after dark. Wednesday, May 4th at 4:25 p.m. anchored under Carysfort Reef Light, inside the Reef, for a harbor. Thursday, May 5th at 3:40 p.m. arrived at Key West.

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May 8th left Key West for Cuban blockade. May 9th anchored off Piedras Key, entrance to Cardenas Bay. Two gun boats steamed down to the mouth of the harbor and reconnoitered our position, then turned and steamed back toward the city of Cardenas. Cardenas lies a distance of about ten miles from the harbor mouth.

May 10th examined entrance to Cardenas Bay, found the entrance had been filled. Might have forced the HUDSON through but was afraid of mines. Found a second entrance through the keys which enclosed the northern side of Cardenas Bay. Reported the presence of the Spanish gun boats and the facts as to the entrances to Cardenas Bay to Commander Watson. The U.S.S. MACHIAS, WILMINGTON and Torpedo Boat WINSLOW were ordered to Piedras Key.

May 11th the MACHIAS shelled all the keys in the vicinity of the entrance to the Bay in order to drive out any of the enemy who might be guarding the entrance. The WILMINGTON, WINSLOW and HUDSON entered the Bay and steamed toward Cardenas. The WILMINGTON in the center and the WINSLOW and HUDSON covering the South and North shores to uncover the two Spanish gun boats. In reaching Cardenas the gun boats were discovered at their wharves. All three vessels started circling in front of the city and firing at the gun boats. The WINSLOW was ordered to go in and get them, she backed in and when a few hundred yards from the wharves the two gun boats and three field pieces opened up on her. The harbor is crescent shaped and all guns could be brought to bear on her. On being hit the WINSLOW steamed out and shortly afterward called on the HUDSON to haul her out as she was helpless. The wind was on shore and the WINSLOW being of light draft was drifting toward the enemies guns. The HUDSON drawing ten feet of water went to the WINSLOW'S rescue but was soon in soft mud and her progress was slow. (All during this time the HUDSON'S two six pounders were in use, they fired one hundred and twenty shells). When the HUDSON was about fifty feet from the WINSLOW a shell exploded killing Ensign Bagley and four men attached to the WINSLOW. A three inch line was put aboard the WINSLOW but it parted and the WINSLOW shot further in shore. The HUDSON was then worked through the mud to the WINSLOW and made fast fore and aft and the WINSLOW was towed out of range of fire. Lieutenant Bernadou of the WINSLOW had been wounded in the groin, he was taken on board the HUDSON and made as comfortable as possible. The WILMINGTON had started down the Bay but she was signalled to and stopped and a doctor taken on board the HUDSON to attend Lieutenant Bernadou.

Thursday, May 12th, 7:10 a.m. arrived at Key West with dead and wounded from WINSLOW. Friday, May 13th at 1:15 p.m. left Key West for Havana blockade. 10:00 p.m. stopped off Havana with dispatches for Commander Watson.

