

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
U. S. NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN
EUROPEAN WATERS

AMERICAN



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WWI. Navy Base 25 (Corfu). USN postmark dtd Dec 1918 from a sailor. In the enclosed letter, the sailor provides a good description of his entire service with the subchaser fleet at Corfu and after the Armistice.

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P. H. H. H. H.

Dec 12, 18-

Dear folks at home -

at last we are allowed to write a bit about where we have been during the past 9 months and where we think we are going - the etc - so stand by. - It was on a Sunday the last day of March that we, 15 strong, including 3 troops and a light cruiser put out of New London, and 4 days later we were tied up in the Magister's Dock yard at Ireland's Island in the Bermudas. Oh but it was rough the first two days. and you may well imagine that the green islands and the warm climate well paid us for our ~~hard~~ stomachs. We didn't get a chance to see much of the place and we were not quite ready to leave on a Sunday, two weeks from the day we left New London

Here in Mermuda we picked up
some more chasue that left New
London, a few more troops, and
a supply ship with both gasoline
and stores, making a convoy of
37 strong, and on April 27 after
12 or 13 nights of steady chugging by
our 6 cylinder standard engine,
which we got to notice only when they
stopped, and they did occasionally,
we tied up in the harbor of Ponta
delgada on the island of St. Michael
in the Azores, and we were a
dirty and hungry bunch. The natives
had surely a flourishing business in
Pomplest oranges, of which there were
plenty. We also found a restaurant
called the U.S. Restaurant. Here we
could get steak, eggs and shawarma
for a moderate price. You may well
believe that this place was well patronized
The natives sure gave us the glad
hand, partly on account of our belief
of keeping money in circulation
and partly for the credit of a U.S.

Collier, that had previously dived
off a german submarine that
was shelling the town. Here
in punta delgada we found the
leondas and minechasera, — On May
7, 45 starting we started out on
a 700 mile trip. and May 13 we
were tied up under the towering
rock of Gibraltar and all her guns.
According to the reports of some
of the chasers this last trip would
not be called ~~the~~ uneventful, for
a periscope was reported as
being seen. one night a couple
of torpedoes were sighted, or a
wake similar to the one of a torpedo
was seen. We lived thru the
fright however and came to port
all safe and sound. The day before
we were preparing to leave here,
a couple of subs. were sighted near
Gib, and the chasers were sent
out to hunt. We were on their

^{D. S. Hardy}
trail but being like a young
pup we lacked experience and
lost them that with other traits
to the unit I consisting of 22, 78, 89.
did not make a touch, one minute
however, was the cause of a submarine
putting into a Spanish port in
a crippled condition, also a signaling
system was discovered between
between some one on the Spanish
shore and the submarines, we were
on this hunt for a part of two days
and overnight, then we were called
in and prepared for sea again
and the next day we set out for
a rather tedious trip, on May 25
we were in the harbor of Valetta
at the island of Malta. Here we
went into dry dock and got a general
overhauling for we were going to
a place which had not all the modern
conveniences. On June 2nd 90 classes
78 included left Malta ahead of
the rest of company to make ready of
our destination, the coming of
the rest. - On May 4 we

presented our selves before the
city of Corfu on the island of Corfu.
Here we were met by a couple of
U.S.N. officers who had come over
land with 9 radio men. So we
found our missing buoys all ready
for us in a little bay about 4 miles
N of Corfu, latter became known as
American bay. The next day 4
Austrian planes sailed over Corfu
and what was to become the busy
base 25. They just came to
observe I guess for they dropped
nothing and were soon on their
way back amidst the bursting
shells from the French anti air
guns, nor they never came again.
So here we were with 5000 miles
behind us a journey of 65 days
and 31 days of actual sailing.
On June 4, etc. he came in, and
what which was a desolate point of
land with nothing but olive trees and
rocks. came to be one of the busiest
places, I believe, this side of Berlin.

St. Savelle 3
No time was lost in sending
the charrs out on the barage, the
hunting or fishing place, whatever
the narrowest place between Staly, shorts
and these islands. - Conditions were
soon made so warm for the sub.
that the hunting trips became
monotonous, they had not to
run the gauntlet. - June 27th
I took my boy and baggage to
the Lemidas. and it has become
home ever since. On the night
of thanksgiving day we pulled
up our mud boots. set out for
Brindisi Italy. most of the charrs
had gone before to several towns
on the eastern shore. We anchored
at Brindisi the night of the 29, and
the next we started across for Cattaro
in Austrian territory but very near the
dividing line of Montenegro we anchored
in this harbor, at two P.M. Dec 1, we
stayed here nearly three days, went
ashore and visited the people, they
all looked but was weary and quite pleased

^{AKHendall}
It is one well protected harbor, and
the Germans had at the beginning of a
fine sub. force here. Here we took the
liberty of some of the well guarded oil,
and there by beating John D. out of
a few dollars. - In the P.M. of Dec
4 we left here and anchored that night
before the old town of Regusa in the Euboean
Province of Aegina. The people along the
way, waving their flags and
cheering for "Americans". Undenay
early the next morning and that day we
saw some wonderful scenery along the way
as we made our way among the many
islands. We anchored that night before
the little town of Chivisa and
the next day we arrived at Spalato
& Split, according to latest reports
we are to go no farther north but
to go back to Corfu and then Malta
and from there homeward. I don't
take long to say it. I only wish we
could make the trip in a short time.
The people think "Americans" is about
the only place on the map. Pres. Wilson
a wonderful man. The people seem
to be in fair condition here, it is quite
civilized. We saw here our first railroad.

nine months. They all can 'speak'
German fairly well but they have a language
of their own quite similar to Italian.
This morning's paper came out with
the big head line, "De the U.S Navy" it gave
the U.S and Pres. Wilson a big wet up.
The news boys were on hand this morning
to sell. They said so fast they went after
more and soon half the old men in town were
on hand with an armful of papers. They cost
20 filler or about 1 and 1/2 cents. I thought
sure I would be nearly home by now
when I was told three weeks ago that
I would be 3 or 4 days before I started,
but they went by 1 or 2 or 3 more. Then
I was informed it would be so many
cents and ~~more~~ Malta would be the
place of starting. Probably now, just now, I
to be kept aboard here as long as the
Lis will eventually get there and the orders
are changed. about going to the Philippines
and China (etc) — The weather
is fine, no snow, no frosts, tho the nights
are a bit cool. The main products are tobacco,
cotton, honey, a bit of silk, and vegetables.
There is also quite a large cement work, has not
been running during the war. All buildings
are of stone and cement. Fountains all done