U.S.S. Olympia,
April 27, 1919.

Dr. John B. Clark,
Guin, Alabama.

Dear Teacher;

I am now in Spalato, Dalmatia, once a part of Austria-Hungary. I came here from Venice, Italy. Before coming to last named place I had been doing everything from convoy duty on destroyers to and from England and France to land duty in Russia around Archangel and Kola with British marines before

arrival of American soldiers in that sector. There were 100 sailors from the Olympia and a handful of B-R-M's but we took our objective with comparitively small losses; only two killed and three wounded, though the other 95 got surrounded and nearly starved awaiting ammunition and then it didn't come so we marched about 80 miles through the swamps of Dwing River where we secured it and turned on the Bolsheviks.

Had it not been for a seaman by the name of Hardaway from Montgomery who rode barebacked a horse for 40 miles, attempted to hire another, failed, took it by force and rode another 40 miles along the enemy flank and gave notice of our close pressure we might have all swung from tree tops there in Cold Russia as some of our comrades did. Hardaway was decorated by the British government with the D.S.O.

I have put in my request for discharge but it has been approved only conditionally; provided a relief is furnished, but that is no easy matter for I am a Signal Quartermaster and they are scarce, for the average peace time sailor doesen't have ambition enough to learn signals so when "Captains of Ships" get a full signal force

they don't like to let one go. The other condition is that the Captain receive a written statement from reliable authority that I am really sincere in my desire to finish my education and that I was doing my utmost to obtain same before enlisting. I think you can give him this information without embarassment and I am sending you an envelope addressed to him with a request that you do so.

In addition if you add that I was handicapped in my early attempts at education it might be to my aid.

I am not handicapped so much now as I have $700.00 to my credit since I last attended school at Guin.

The reason I am in the present situation is that I was too anxious to get in the war and enlisted as soon as possible after war was declared and did not await Congress to pass a bill allowing enlistment

for duration of war so I will have a little more than two years to serve if I don't get out otherwise. So many insincere requests have been handed in till officers are slow about considering those without proof.

You would be interested very much in the ruins of Diocles' palace here in Spalato and his gardens at Salona near here. It was here that he retired

from his throne at Constantinople.

This question between the Italians and Jugoslavs will not be settled permanently if the Italians get this coast for the Slavs here are longing for freedom and are a much better educated people with more morale than the Italians.

Give my best regards to Mrs. Clark and accept my best wishes for more success for you. Your faithful Student, "Sam" J. S. Perry.