

Paris, France
APO 887
January 4, 1945

The Very Reverend
T S McDermott, O P
869 Lexington Ave
New York, N Y

Ben. McCarthy

Very reverend dear Father,

Last night I went over to a hospital in this area and visited Father Alf Sullivan, who was brought in a few days ago. He is not in bad shape, but I think if his beard were removed he'd look a little thin. I spent most of the evening with him, and I think he is all right after having been thru some rugged work.

His chart says he has a fractured ilium, but there is some question about it. A shell exploded behind him and showered him with paving blocks. What he seems to have now is a "concussion back," very sore and needing treatment, chiefly bed rest for several weeks, but showing nothing more than torn ligaments and bruises. He can't walk right now, or at least has great difficulty walking, but unless the doctor who spoke to me about it is completely wrong, he will get all his functions back.

Alf is pretty old (46) to be hanging around the combat area. He was up at Geilenkirchen, and was near both Doyle and Charlie Carroll, but didn't see them. I think he told me he met Mike Goldrick. He should not be returned to a combat outfit, and something may be done about that here as I get into Tiernan's office pretty often. Tiernan, by the way, raised his prestige with me for a while by telling me he knew you in Kansas City.

Doyle blew in here for a visit a couple of weeks ago, but without proper passes for himself and his men, and as the MPs had a dragnet on for AWOLs we had to keep him under cover till he blew out again. He is doing an excellent job. I don't mean that by way of ordinary compliment. Many of his men have come thru this hospital, and even the Protestants have been enthusiastic about Doyle. They like to tell how he works and what he has done for them, etc. He ought to have a rest soon.

I haven't met any other OPs, but if you have occasion to write Rooney or the others, you might tell them I'd like to see them if they come to this naughty city.

With best wishes, I remain,

Respectfully yours in
St Dominic,

Ben. McCarthy OP