

May 24, 1943.

At. Per. Msgr. D. V. Foley,
Dubuque, Ia.

Dear Monsignor:

Just a personal note to appraise you of my present situation. You'll note that I'm in a hospital again. Went out on the 2 weeks "field" assignment at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk. Was already pretty well back on sleep from night watches, etc. Got quartered in a big barracks and didn't get much sleep for four more nights. Wednesday I collapsed, from nervous exhaustion, I guess. Spent the night in sick bay and the next day they ran me over here for rest and observation.

Was pretty nervous and the docs wanted to know if I'd had any previous trouble of that nature. So I had to tell them about the spell in 1936. They've sent to Mercywood for a transcript of my record, and if it shows any possibility of a recurrence, it looks like I'm to be surveyed out on a medical discharge (honorable). However, they say that the red tape, going through Washington, may take as long as six weeks. Meanwhile, I'm to rest and be sure I'm O.K. by the time I go out.

That's the setup at the present time. I'm up and around every day - said Mass yesterday - but pretty jittery. I guess I just wasn't tough enough to stand the Navy racket. Apparently, you're supposed to keep going in the Navy, whether you get any sleep or not. Have talked this over with two other chaplains and they agree that it would probably be better to get out now, rather than crack up under fire, etc. I hate to give up, but it's up to the Navy, and if the medical discharge goes through, it wouldn't be wise to fight it.

Will keep you informed of future developments. The favor I would like to ask, Monsignor, is that if Swaledale is only a temporary appointment, would it be possible not to make it permanent in the near future? If this goes through and I'm O.K., I should be home around July 1. Will come to Dubuque to see the Archbishop as soon as possible. Will have to start over somewhere.

The above is my address, at present. No D.O. 2. stands for Sick Officers Quarters. Don't worry about me, since I think I can throw this off.

Sincerely, yours in Christ,
Frank Churchill.