

# Twenty Fourth Infantry Division Association

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Dear Taro Leafer:

September 22, 1972

First, the bad news. James M. O'Donnell, (G 21st '42-'45) was rushed home from a New England Labor Day holiday with the Sandersons and Ed Henry because of a bloody nose that would not cease in its flow. Early diagnosis not good. So - surgery - and . . . .

Now, the good news. Early pessimism reversed; "Spike" has been given a clean bill of health. All's right with the world once more.

Recovery will be expectedly slow - certainly slower than Spike himself envisioned minutes ago by telephone from his hospital bed.

As this reaches you, Spike will be mending at home at:  
800 Washington Blvd., Oak Park, Ill. 60302. Tel. 1-312-524-0732.

As the saying goes - duBarry wasn't it? - "When you're ever down a well, ring my bell".

Over the last 27 years, probably no Taro Leafer has travelled more miles, dropped more nickels into pay booths, to reach other 24thers looking for a chaplain or otherwise. No Taro Leafer has ever reached out the hand of friendship more often. Spike was there - invariably.

And now it's his turn at bat. Spike has been "down a well". May I suggest that it may be for us now to reciprocate in kind. A brief message of cheer would be appreciated indeed. This I know.

At my own mention of flowers, I was blasted with a typical O'Donnellian retort, somewhat subdued as he talked through his shrouded proboscis: "Hell no; they're for funerals". I pass this on for what it may be worth.

And while we're on this Welcome Wagon kick, why not do yourself proud and get-well-card our new Prexy, Maj.Gen.Aubrey S. Newman, (19th, 34th, Div.Hq. '41-'45), of 612 Juan Anasco Dr., Longboat Key, Sarasota, Fla. 33577. Red went under the knife six weeks ago for his bad hip. Again, good news: recovery agonizingly slow, but seemingly sure.

In both cases, replies will be slow in coming. In all candor, I anticipate a deluge so please be patient.

Thank a 1,000,000.

First Taro Leaf out shortly.

Cheers -

  
KENWOOD ROSS

73  
Hotel Thayer, West Point, N.Y.  
July 13-14-15, 1973

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