

Letter from France. October 21, 1918

Written by Martin J. Conlon, serving with the 306th Infantry Regiment of the American Expeditionary Forces in France to Lena Fogarty, while they were courting. Written in the Red Cross hospital following his evacuation after receiving a shrapnel wound during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Scanned and transcribed by their grandson, William Martin Conlon, Jr. 26 Dec 2011.



Oct 21, 1918

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Used the same address

NAME Pri Martin J. Conlin

Co H. 306 Infantry

American E. F.

AMERICAN RED CROSS



Oct 21 1918

Dear Lena

I have been getting a lot of letters from you lately. I received some that was dated Sept 23rd. It certainly makes a fellow cheerful to hear from the ones at home. It makes me feel sorry for you Lena when I hear you are not getting any of my letters. I wrote to you and Teresa the same time after my first trip to the front lines it was about the middle of Aug. The letters must have got lost somewhere. I wrote five or six letters in Aug to you Lena and a couple to Teresa and the rest of the family. We have had some excitement since the first of Aug. have been at the front ever since and have only written a few letters in Sept. and

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just a couple in Oct. Well Lena I hope you have heard from me in Sept. The papers you are sending are not coming to me so do not bother dear about sending any more the clippings are enough. I am glad to hear all your folks are getting along well. Teresa wrote and said there was a lot of sickness there, hope you will escape being sick. Have you heard any thing about B. Buckley or H. Lombard? I have seen Geo Buckley a number of times, he is a swell chap alright. Geo gave me a great feed one night for supper had just got back from the front. We put in twenty straight days in the forrest had to dig a hole about every night to sleep in this forrest was twenty miles through we went all through and some distance beyond. It did seem good to see a house and open land again. The boche was kept busy keeping out of our way. He had some swell dugouts just like home at one place he had a regular open air theatre would seat five or six hundred. They have had the life of Riley for four years. Some of the boys got live

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rabbits & chickens where the boche³ had been staying Now dear
do not get excited I got a slight flesh wound below the ankle
on Oct/14- at 10 a.m. I am able to walk about just as good as ever
and have not hardly any pain. Was hit with a piece of
shrapnel. Well Lena your prayers and sacrifices are certainly
being heard by Our Lord. I consider myself one of the luckiest
persons living to get out of that hell hole that morning.
I have been through some warm places the last two and half
months but that beat them all. Every one of the Buddies used
me swell and all the Doctors were fine in the field hospitals
I got first aid in a half hour I walked there myself some of
the boys offer to go with me but we might have all got
it if they happen to see us. The first field hospital was a
couple hours ride in the ambulance had hot coffee & bread
also cigarettes there we stopped at another one before we got to
the last evacuation hospital I was there until Sat then
they moved us to the base hospital had a twelve hour
ride on the train. This hospital is base No. 1. and believe
me it is a grand place the best of everything. The doctors &

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a bed and just think of it getting in between sheets again.
I don't blame the boys for not wanting to get well. Will
have an opportunity of seeing that famous city now In
a few months more I may be in Berlin for my foot will
be all better soon. Well sweetness this will be all for
now. Do not worry about me I will be with you in a short
time to spend many happy hours together. I hope Tom
is well and we shall all be home soon. So With all my
Love Dear Lovingly Yours Martin

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