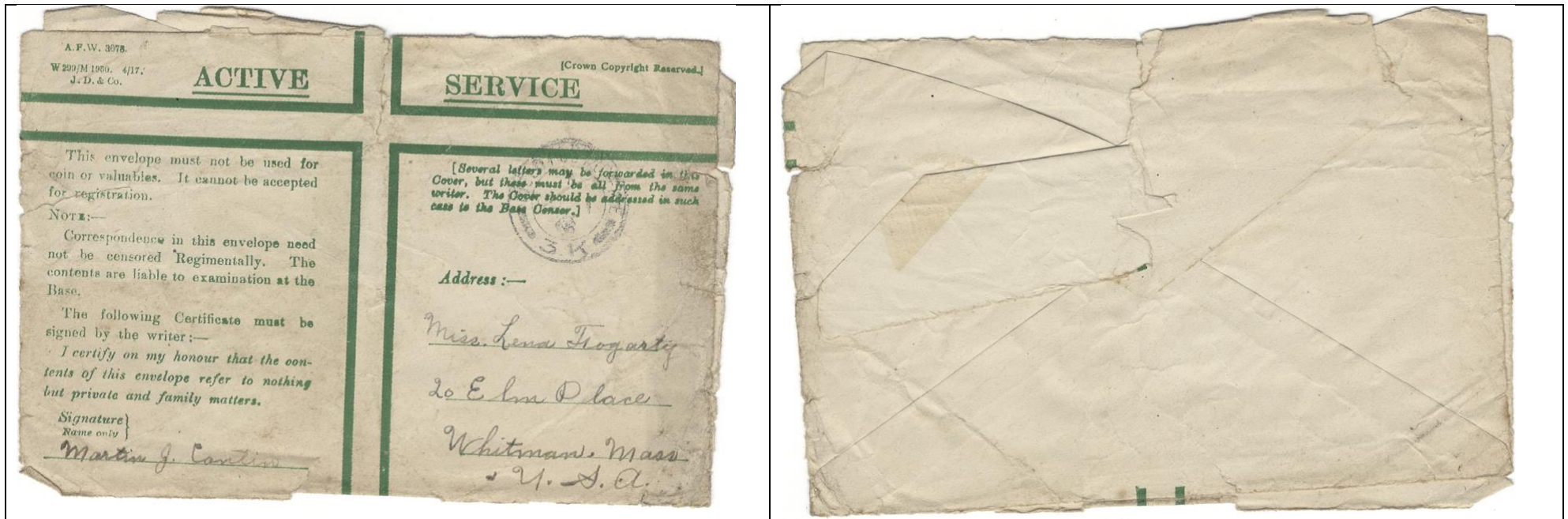


Letter from France. May 30, 1918

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.

Scanned and transcribed by their grandson, William Martin Conlon, Jr. 30 Aug 2020



Pvt. Martin J. Conlin.
Supply Co 306th Inf
3rd Battalion B.E.F. American E. F.
Somewhere in France Via New York.
May 30th 1918

Dear Lena

To-day is decoration day we are having a half holiday here. It is much different than what it was to us a year ago. We went into the city that day and had a good time. Our company is playing ball against another company this afternoon. I stayed around the billett doing my washing had some washing to do to. Have not had much chance to get at it until yesterday. I boiled my clothes in good shape yesterday so the little fellows would not be on them. Well Lena I

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am in the best of health
so far have not been sick at
all. So I am lucky so far
in that respect. Now Lena you
may be expecting more letters
than what I am writing. The
moving about has had some
thing to do with it but hope
I can write to you often.

It must be trying on you
when you have to wait so
long for a letter. In your letter
of May 1st I thought you would
have received the letter I wrote
on ship also the other ones.

It only takes about three weeks
for yours to arrived. It is more
than good of you Lena to write
so often but you cannot know
how much better I feel when
I get your letters. It makes
you feel we are not so far
apart after all.

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So I am lucky so far in that respect. Now Lena you may
be expecting more letters than what I am writing. The
moving about has had something to do with it but hope
I can write to you often. It must be trying on you when
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May 7th I thought you would have received the letter I
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three weeks for your to arrive. It is more than good of
you Lena to write so often but you cannot know how
much better I feel when I get your letters. It makes you
feel we are not so far apart after all.

We did not stay only two days in the place you thought we were at. Hope your folks are all well now and that you will hear from Tom soon. Your mother must be very anxious waiting for some word. I have not seen anything of Tom and may not see him for some time yet. He may be some distance from where I am stopping. If I knew his address I might be able to locate him. It must seem good to you folks seeing all the men getting their gardens ready to plant. I wish that I had one to plant for you and myself perhaps next summer we might have one for ourselves if this war ever ends which I hope will be soon. Fred and Annie must enjoy seeing Vincent getting to be such

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a big bright⁴ boy would like
to see the little rascal. He has
some of his father's fighting blood
in him. Wonder how F. is getting
along with them other girls you
heard he was going around with.
The old fellows certainly fell in
to great luck they can have it
all their own way now. I hope
none of them will shine up
to you no doubt some of
them have their eyes on you.
Your beautiful eyes Lena would
make the best of them fall.
I don't want to encourage you
any about using them. I know
how I miss them. There is no-
thing over here for you to
worry about all I see around
here is green fields and farmers.
This would be an ideal place
to spend your vacation at
not any excitement just rest.

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a big bright boy would like to see the little rascal. He has some of his father's fighting blood in him. Wonder how F is getting along with them other girls you heard he was going around with. The old fellows certainly fell into great luck they can have it all their own way now. I hope none of them will shine up to you no doubt some of them have their eyes on you.

Your beautiful eyes Lena would make the best of them fall. I don't want to encourage you any about using them. I know how I miss them. There is nothing over here for you worry about. All I see around here is green fields and farmers. This would be an ideal place to spend your vacation at not nay excitement just rest.

If you were ⁵ here Lena we could
 have some great strolls lots of
 dandy resting places and no one
 to bother us. It has all the
 walks at home stopped but when
 you are not here to enjoy them
 theres not much use thinking
 about them. I saw Geo. B. the other
 night another fellow and I called
 on him. He is looking good and
 was quite jolly. I have not seen
 a American paper since I left. A
 French man comes around with
 the English papers thats the only
 news I get. It does not have
 very much news about the States.
 The good news that you heard
 Lena has been changed considerable
 by this time I expect. Their re-
 ports are all false in my estima-
 tion, will take some time yet
 for them to do what you would
 like to have them do.

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 on him. He is looking good and was quite jolly. I have
 not seen an American paper since I left. A French man
 comes around with the English papers, that's the only
 news I get. It does not have very much news about the
 States. The good news that you heard Lena has been
 changed considerably by this time I expect. Their
 reports are all false in my estimation, will take some
 time yet for them to do what you would like to have
 them do.

We got paid off⁶ last Sat. night
 it was the first money we received
 since we left. All the boys were
 broke about. Most of them spent
 their money coming over on
 the boat. I had enough all the
 time. I knew too well what it
 is to be short of the green goods.
 They were a happy bunch when
 the old French dough was put
 into their hands. Some of them
 chaps started in right away
 having champagne. I did not have
 any that night stayed at the
 billet when we got there. I
 do not use very much at any
 time. It is much different here
 than what you people imagine.

We are given cigarettes tabaco &
 matches every week all English
 brands until this week we all
 got six pkgs of Camels cigarettes
 some N.Y. Newspaper collected
 for all the boys like the Am. Kind the best.

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It is much different here than what you people imagine. We are given cigarettes tabaco and matches every week, all English brands until this week we all got six pkgs of Camels cigarettes. Some N. Y. newspaper collected for all the boys. Like the Am. Kind the best.

Well dear girl this is quite
 a long letter with not very much
 in it. Of course you know we
 can not write about some thing
 I think about you Lena many
 times and always when I say
 my prayers. So do not think
 you are forgotten even for a
 day. There's not a girl in this
 whole land that can equal
 you in my estimation. If I did
 not have just you Lena
 to love and think about
 sweetness it would be much
 harder for me. So cheer up
 little girl we will have many
 happy hours yet. Remember me
 to all the folks. Tell Teresa not
 to worry and she will get a
 letter shortly after this one
 So with all my Love Lena &
 lots of kisses + + + +
 Lovingly yours
 Martin

Well dear girl this is quite a long letter with not very much in it. Of course you know we cannot write about some things.

I think about you Lena many times and always when I say my prayers. So do not think you are forgotten even for a day. There's not a girl in this whole land that can equal you in my estimation. If I did not have just you Lena to love and think about, sweetness, it would be much harder for me. So cheer up little girl we will have many happy hours yet. Remember me to all the folks. Tell Teresa not to worry and she will get a letter shortly after this one.

So with all my Love Lena & lots of kisses. XXXX

Lovingly Yours
 Martin

