## Letter from France. October 21, 1918

Written by Martin J. Conlon, serving with the 306<sup>th</sup> 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.

fi. M. J. Conlin A. R. C. Miss. Lend Hogarty 20 Elm Place Whitman, Mass. MAIMAN, Mass.

Oct 21, 1918

ON ACTIVE SERVICE AMERICAN RED CROSS WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY, FORCE Used the same address NAME Pri Martin J. Conlin. Co F. 30 6 Infantry Ont 21 1918 merican ar Lena of letters from you lately. I received some that was dated set 23rd. It certainly makes a fellow cheerful to here from the ones It makes me feel sorry for you dend when I. not getting any of my letters. Cerera the same time after my first trip to the front lines it he letters must have got last was about the middle of ang. in any to you Lena and somewhere. I worke five or six letter hamily We have had Verera and the sest of it ig. have been at the front Some excitement since the first of ever since and have only written a few letters in Sept. and

## Dear Lena

I have been getting a lot of letters from you lately. I received some that was dated Sept 23. it certainly make 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

Just a couple in Ost. Well Lend I hope you have heard from t. The papers you are sending are no me so do not bother dear about sending any more are enough. I am glad to hear all your forthe are getting along well. Terera wrote and said there was a lat of sickners there, hope you will escape being sick. Have you any thing about B. Buckley or H. Lombard! I have seen Buckley a number of timeshe is a swell chap al right yes gave me a great feed one night for supper first got back from the front. We put in twenty straight daip in the forrest had to dig a hole about. to sleep in this forrest was twenty miles t what all through and some distance beyond good to see a house and open land again. J. spept busy peeping out of our way. He had digouts just like home at one place he had a regular air theatre would seat five or six hundred. They have had The life of filey for four years. Some of the boy

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 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 four or six hundred. They have had the life of Riley for four years. Some of the boys got live

rabbits + chickens where the backe had been staying now dear do not get exited I got a slight flesh wound below the ankle on act 14- at 10 a.m. I am able to walk about fust as good as ever and have not hardly any pain. Was hit with a peice of shrapnel. Well Lend your prayers and scarifices are certainly being heard by am Lord. I consider my self-one of the luckest persons living to get out of that hell hale that 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 Dactors were fine in the field hospitals I got first aid in a half hour I walked there my self 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 hour ride in the ambulance had bot coffee ! bread also exponettes there we stopped at another one before we got to the last evacution pospital & was there until Sat then they moved us to the base hospital had a twelve hour base no 1. and believe ride on the train. This pospital is me it is a grand place the best of every. The doc

rabbits & chickens where the boche had been staying. Now dear, do not get excited. I got a slight flesh would below the ankle on Oct 14 at 10a.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 &

AMERICAN RED CROSS ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE NAME ... nurses are grand the food is the best since & left the States. It was a big surprise to me to get a bath and have a bed and just think of it getting in between sheets again I don't blame the boys for not wonting to ge have an opportunity of seeing that famous eity now In a few months more I may be in Beilin for my foot will be all better soon. Well sweetness this will be all for now Po not worry about me I will be with you in a show time to spend many happy hours together. I hope Tam is well and we shall all be home soon. So With all my Love Dear Lovingly yours Martin

nurses are grand the food is the best since I left the states. It was a big surprise to me to get a bath and have 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. I 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.