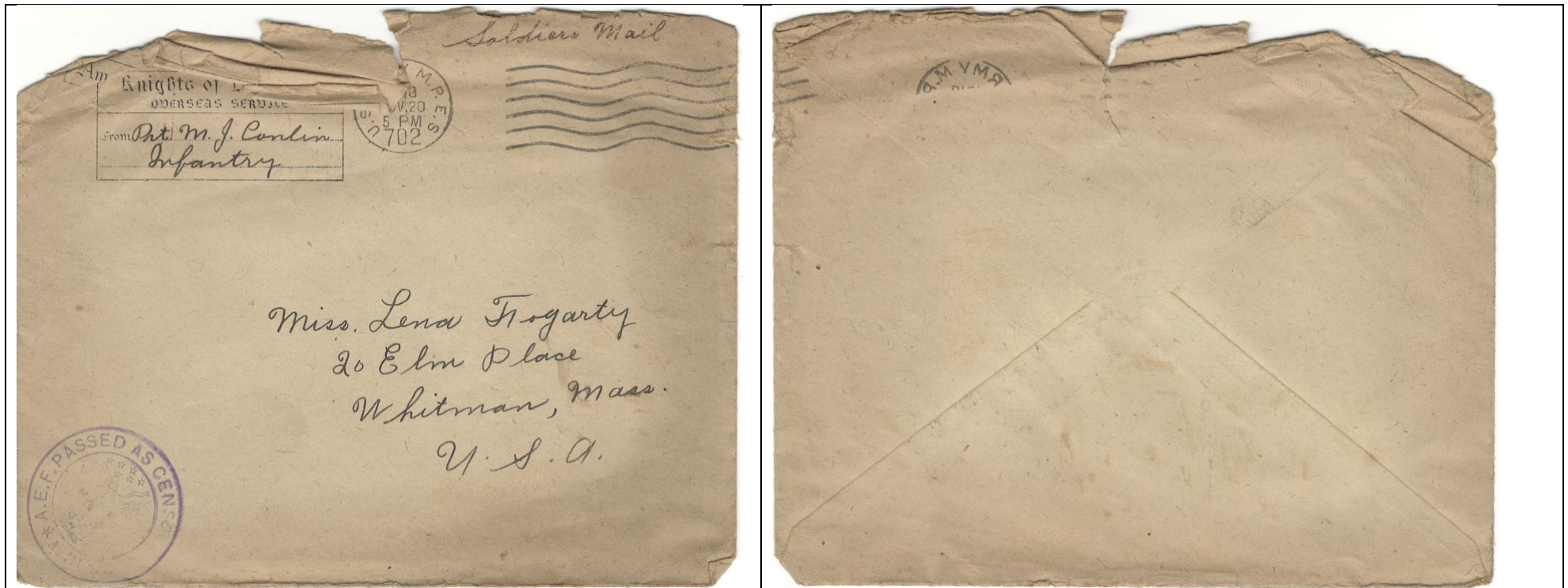


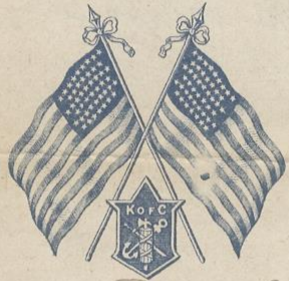
Letter from France. November 12 1918

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. 31 Aug 2020



Knights of Columbus
OVERSEAS SERVICE



ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
Pvt. Martin J. Conlin
A.P.O. Co. F. 306 Infantry

DATE *Nov 12th 1918*

Somewhere in France

My Dear Lena

This is Tuesday morning in happy France. As you know the first step towards peace has been taken. Well Lena all you folks at home are more happy than the people here. I hope you are well also the rest of the folks at home. I am getting along fine my wound is nearly healed up. There was great rejoicing here all day Monday and in the evening. I did not have a pass that day but some of the boys did they was telling us about it when they came back. I went up to the city Tuesday afternoon & evening they were still celebrating. I never saw such a crowd, every where you went was jammed with people all having a good time. Some of the girls would surround a bunch of Amer. buddies hug & kiss them before they could break away.

Pvt. Martin J. Conlin
Co. F 306th Infantry

Nov 12th 1918
Somewhere in France

My Dear Lena

This is Tuesday morning in happy France. As you know the first step towards peace has been taken. Well Lena all you folks at home are more happy than the people here. I hope you are well also the rest of the folks at home. I am getting along fine my wound is nearly healed up. There was great rejoicing here all day Monday and in the evening. I did not have a pass that day but some of the boys did they was telling us about it when they came back. I went up to the city Tuesday afternoon & evening they were still celebrating. I never saw such a crowd, everywhere you went was jammed with people all having a good time. Some of the girls would surround a bunch of Amer. Buddies hug & kiss them before they could break away.

The Amer. soldiers were welcomed everywhere every where every frenchman wanted to shake hands with you. The cafes were doing a land office business. We stopped in one place to have a drink the men and their wives also the children were there they made us have a drink on them the women sang french songs for us it seemed like old times again. But not like home that's the place we are all anxious to get back to. They have had about three days of celebrating all the factories and business houses closed down for that time. This fellow I was with is from Lestershire N.Y. he was foreman in the treeing ^{room} for End. Johnson Shoe Co. He is a jolly chap a Bro K of C. also, he is in the same ward with me. The frogs are certainly a crazy lot of people you can't imagine what they are unless you see them I have seen some crazy Americans but the french have them all stopped. We got paid that day also I got sixty francs but money goes pretty fast here just like it does in the states but mine holds out pretty well. The people were laughing and crying at the same time. I bet you people did the same thing I can imagine how happy your mother & father was when they heard the good news that is if Tom has been as fortunate as myself which

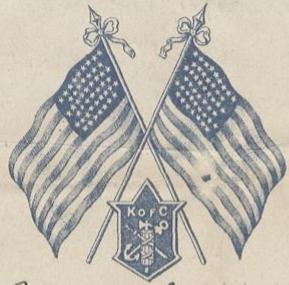
The Amer. Soldiers were welcomed everywhere every Frenchman wanted to shake hands with you. The cafes were doing a land office business. We stopped in one place to have a drink the men and their wives also the children were there. They made us have a drink on them. The women sang French songs for us, it seemed like old times again. But not like home. That's the place we are all anxious to get back to. They have had about three days of celebrating all the factories and business houses closed down for that time. This fellow I was with is from Lestershire N.Y. He was foreman in the treeing room for End. Johnson Shoe Co. He is a jolly chap, a Bro. K of C. also, he is in the same ward with me. The frogs are certainly a crazy lot of people. You can't imagine what they are unless you see them. I have seen some crazy Americans but the French have them all stopped. We got paid that day also. I got sixty francs but money goes pretty fast here just like it does in the states but mine holds out pretty well. The people were laughing and crying at the same time. I bet you people did the same thing. I can imagine how happy you mother & father was when they heard the good news, that is if Tom has been as fortunate as myself, which

I hope he has been³ or more so. Well dearie I hope you have received some of my letters by now. I have not received any since a couple of days before I got hit. I should get some mail soon if they have sent it from the company. I suppose you see Teresa quite often it will be a happy day when I get back and see you all especially you Lena there's no chicken here that can equal your sweetness. The time has gone rather fast to me it does not seem only a few months when we left each other but I suppose it's because we were on the move most all the time. We hardly know one day from another here the time will pass much slower now. It must have been terrible lonesome for you Lena where you stayed at home so much. I know you did a lot of worrying about us over here. But a person who has your faith Lena gets a lot of consolation they would not get otherwise. I hope all your prayers have been answer I don't believe another girl has did what you have for me and you can rest asure I will be true and faithful to you Lena. We know what danger we have been through and I know it was your prayers that protected me.

3

I hope he has been or more so. Well dearie I hope you have received some of my letters by now. I have not received any since a couple of days before I got hit. I should get some mail soon if they have sent it from the company. I suppose you see Teresa quite often. It will be a happy day when I get back and see you all especially you Lena. There's no chicken here that can equal you sweetness. The time has gone rather fast to me, it does not seem only a few months when we left each other, but I suppose it's because we were on the move most all the time. We hardly know one day from another here, the time will pass much slower now. It must have been terrible lonesome for you Lena where you stayed at home so much. I know you did a lot of worrying about us over here. But a person who has your faith Lena gets a lot of consolation they would not get otherwise. I hope all your prayers have been answer[ed]. I don't believe another girl has did what you have for me and you can rest asure I will be true and faithful to you Lena. We know what danger we have been through and I know it was your prayers that protected me.

Knights of Columbus
OVERSEAS SERVICE



ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

A.P.O. _____

DATE _____

Now that the war is over you may think I will get careless about what I do but do not let that worry you Lena. I am coming back to you a much better man than when I left if God protects me from all harm which no doubt He will. I suppose the Crowley family and Murphy's are the same hope Annie is feeling better by now. The Buckleys must have been greatly worried over Batty. I hope he is safe also the Lombard fellow. I do not know any thing about the other boys. We are having fine fall weather now it has not rained for nearly a week. This will be all my little sweet rose for to-day. Remember me to all wishing them the best of health.

Lovingly Yours forever
Martin + + + + +

Now that the war is over you may think I will get careless about what I do but do not let that worry you Lena. I am coming back to you a much better man than when I left if God protects me from all harm which no doubt He will. I suppose the Crowley family Murphy's are the same, hope Annie is feeling better by now. The Buckleys must have been greatly worried over Batty. I hope he is safe, also the Lombard fellow. I do not know any thing about the other boys. We are having fine fall weather now, it has not rained for nearly a week. This will be all my little sweet rose for to-day. Remember me to all, wishing them the best of health.

Lovingly Yours forever
Martin X X X X X

