

~~A letter from a Sullivan Co.  
Boy. John O. Mc Connell.  
Green Castle, Mo.~~

Camp Merritt N.J.  
Jan. 4, 1919.

Miss Stella Mc Connell  
Dear Sister <sup>and</sup> folks at home,  
I just recieved your letter  
so I will answer it the first  
thing I do, I was glad to hear  
you were well, but sorry to  
hear that little Gilbert was  
sick. Hope he is better by this  
time I am feeling fine, just  
a little lame yet, but guess  
I will <sup>soon</sup> be all right. I was shot  
in the back part of the right  
leg, just above the knee, The bullet  
didn't hit the bone, but it  
hit the nerves, numbed my  
foot and I had no feeling in



it, but it has about all come  
back to it right feeling again.  
Then I took the rheumatism  
in my ankle, I think I would  
be allright if it wasnt for  
that, It left my ankle a little  
stiff and makes me limp a  
little. then I took the "flu" so  
all of it to-gether keep me in  
the Hospital a quite a while  
but I was lucky at that,  
It sure was a bad old war.

I will give you a little of  
my experience while I was  
in France as I have never  
written you much about it.  
we had about a month  
training after we got to  
France, then we started



for the front at Chateau Thierry.  
Then on the last of May,  
I guess, if you noticed in  
the papers, you read about that  
drive. Well, we didn't mind it,  
we were on the river, <sup>Yards</sup> on  
one side and the "germs" on the  
other, so we held the line.

Both ~~to~~ <sup>the Yards</sup> and the Germans  
hauling up ammunition  
every night getting ready for a  
drive. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of July  
the square heads started it.

They put a ten hour  
barage on us. Now war really  
began. I mean, they started  
for Paris, so across the  
river they came, but all  
our big guns was handing



it right back at them,  
when day light came they  
had their bridges made,  
so here they came.

We waited and let them  
come until we thought  
we had about what we could  
handle, so our artillery put  
a barrage on the river and  
blew up their bridges, so it  
was good by Germans. [We  
put in our bridges and  
crossed the river, We ran  
them until the first of  
August. Then we got a  
rest. Well this is enough  
war for this time.

I was in two more drives,  
but I won't write it all this



time. There <sup>are none</sup> ~~isnt~~ any of the  
boys with me that you know,  
I was afraid they all got killed.  
We were surd in some  
fight, the day I got hit; that  
was the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

You have no idea what  
us boy went through,  
I didnt want you to know  
while we were in it.

They were many a poor boy  
that didnt come home.

So I felt my self lucky when  
it was all finished and I got  
back in as good shape as  
I did. I dont know just how  
long we will be here, but

but dont think it will  
be long. They say we will



go to Camp Dodge, Iowa.

But we don't know for sure yet. ~~Send me Gunt's address so if I go to Junston I can find him. I like it fine now, nothing to do but eat and sleep. but I would like to get home and see you all.~~

~~How is Mother and dad and uncle standing the winter? you didn't say any thing about in your letter. I hope you all stay well.~~

It is some pleasure to write a letter now, without having some joker reading it before you send it. They didn't censor your



letters. but they sure read  
all that we wrote before  
they left. Well I think I  
have written enough for  
this time. You must write  
to me often and tell me  
all the news, I will write  
again in a few days  
from your brother  
John B Mc Gonnell

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