

The Leamington Courier published this letter from Private Osborne of Leamington. He wrote this letter to his parents from Netley Hospital near Southampton. He was serving with 2nd Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment. It seems likely the engagement he was wounded in was the Battle of Le Cateau which took place during the retreat from Mons.

The P.S is perhaps typical of a lad not wanting to alarm his mother.

August 31st 1914

Dear Mother and Father,

Just a few lines to let you know I have arrived at Netley. I shall soon be better. I sent a letter from Mons in Belgium on Tuesday last. Our battalion got awfully cut up on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and they told me there are only 36 left out of about 1,100. I am glad that I got out of it alive; I ran, jumped gambolled and walked; in fact I don't know what I did as I was mad for the time being, and they were firing at us with maxim guns, rifles and shrapnel for about a mile after we left the trenches. There were 250,000 against 80,000. You can tell it was a "bit off". I have just heard they re sending us to the hospitals near our homes, as this place is full up and they have to make room for more coming. They have just brought twenty of the Warwicks in here, but I only know one.

P.S. My bayonet and bullet wounds are going on champion"