

St George Ward
A M Hospital
Southall
Middlesex

July 17 1917

Dear Madam

I was very pleased to receive your very nice letter and to know you did not mind hearing from me, but I always said I would write to some relation of Mr Boucher and tell them what myself and all men under him thought about him. Very funny, I heard from a man the other day who has only just found my address and who was orderly to Mr Boucher before me, also been wounded twice to my once. He says, I was very sorry to hear of Mr Boucher for the Battalion never seemed the same and I've always said myself that he was as good as Colonel of the Battalion for almost everything the Colonel did was with his information and I'm sure he was the right man in the right place, I'm sure it was a terrible blow to you. Now you say you would really like to know more about his injuries, well I'm very sorry that I cannot furnish this absolutely, but will give you my real opinion of it, I believe I've told you before that we were going round to the 6th Bedfords in front of us and two Artillery Officers seeing I suppose with maps in hand that Mr Boucher was our intelligence officer, asked him to let them have a look at a certain map, so he did. No sooner had they said this then there was a shell came and six of us who were standing half a second before were laid down. The shell being a wizz bang which are as quick as lightening and come very low had a terrible force. My own experience was this. It blew me senseless for about a minute and I felt as if all my stomach had been forced into my chest, then I looked round first thing I saw was Mr Boucher right opposite absolutely white and on his back. This is all before I saw my foot, I was half silly for a minute or so, and I could not find a mark on Mr Boucher anywhere, this also makes me think he was not wounded. When he stood and when he fell he was still facing where the shell had bursted so I really think that the awful force which came was the cause, When I took my eyes from Mr Boucher and saw my foot and my boot blown away I went weak in a minute but I'm very thankful I have a foot left all I've lost is just the end of my ankle bone and part of a bone which goes along the foot of course all the flesh has grown new again and I shall walk quite well again although my foot may be weak. I've only had two operations and now it is healing nicely. I go about on crutches and have been up on them two months out of seven. Mr Boucher must have suffered a lot with other wounds, I remember him walking by a clearing station at Doullens once and he said that is where I had my life saved once. He meant when he was wounded at first. As you say I'm sure he was always prepared to die and always went about so fearless. It takes me all my time to write because I'm always thinking and always have done. What would I give if I could to have the days and his presence back again. When he organised the Sniper section the first thing he did was to ask how many men have been out since the Battalion and not had leave. Well when I told him I had he was very surprised and booked me first and the only one too, but instead of having leave had my wound. I know though that had we both come back safe that I should have had it. He was always wanting to know if we were comfortable and did all he could for us. You may be surprised to know that I live at Four Oaks seven miles from Walsall. My word I should think you have suffered something with your Dear Sons and done above your share. They have suffered something. I feel sure that the Colonel would have Mr Boucher buried nicely, and I know exactly

where the spot is, so that if ever I should go again I'd try to go there myself. I will now draw to a close or I should make you tired I'm afraid. Wishing all your sons the very best of health and Good Luck.

I am Yours Sincerely

L/C F H Cope

P.S. I must ask you to excuse mistakes and writing.