four Riffle companies positions.
The leading half-platoon of the counter attacking party who remained behind during the attack were overwhelmed.

On hearing of the withdrawal of the Left Company I ordered the supporting platoons to the right Company to form a defensive flank switching back from Bois Hugo at U.21.d.65.55. and the 2 platoons in Tower Trench to take up their positions in the Toy Ride.

The supporting platoons to the Left Company remained stationed in their positions in front of the Quarry line.

Counter attack on 2nd at 6.30 am.
A party of the Enemy estimated at 2 platoons were seen advancing against the right front company. The S.O.S. was put up and Rifle and L.G. fire immediately opened on them. The Stokes Mortars and M.G. barrage came down very promptly and were both very effective and the attack was easily dispersed.

Appendix A.

Report on Enemy Counter attack on evening of 20th Nov

Reference Maps. Special Sheet 1/10000
Part of 57 B SW. and 57 C B SW

At 3.25 p.m. a report was received from O.C. right Company that strong parties of the Enemy were using BEEF ALLEY going in the direction of U 21 d 4.8. They were fired on with rifle and L.G.s with effect from the right companies position in BOVIS Trench. but owing to failure in communication the artillery were unable to pick up the target.

At 4.20 p.m. the enemy having heavily bombarded the blocks at U 21 d 05.65 and U 21 d 35.75 attacked both blocks and the trench between them. driving the garrison out

An immediate counter attack was organised by the O.C. Coy and the O.C. supporting platoon but only about 20 men succeeded in getting back into the trench. This drove the Enemy down the trench towards sunken road at U 21 d 5.6. where they suffered very heavily from Rifle

Appendix 13

Report on action in front of BULLECOURT on 20th November 1917

The Objective The enemy front line from U 22 D 00.53 to U 21 D 1.7. with 12th Bn W Yorkshire Regiment attacking on the right and 4th Bn R Fusiliers forming a defensive flank from ~~U 21~~ the Sabot - point - in the enemy line at U 21 D 2.6.

Reconnaissance Rec officers taking part in the operations reconnoitred the objective from the positions then held and it was clear that the only real difficulty lay in the assembly for the attack especially for No 1 Company which had to form up in the wood and outskirts of BULLECOURT.

During the practices on the Corps in the back area tapes were laid out and cut to represent Enemy. Two officers and 8 scouts were sent to live with the battalion in the line for 3 days prior to the attack so that they might be fully acquainted with the ground and each assembling platoon have a guide to it assembly

1st BATTALION NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS.

STRENGTH OF BATTALION

DECEMBER 1917.

Officers	W.O. Cl.I.	W.O. Cl.2.	Sgts.	Lcs Sgts.	Cpls.	Lcs Cpls	Ptes.	TOTAL
32	I	5	44	8	40	80	606	784

REJOINED DURING MONTH.....34. OTHER RANKS.

DECREASE DURING MONTH.

CASUALTIES	KILLED	WOUNDED	TO C.C.S.	TRANSFERRED.
	I4	34	36	5

MISSING:)- IO.

STRENGTH

Officers	W.O. Cl.I.	W.O. Cl.2.	Sgts.	Lcs Sgts.	Cpls.	Lcs Cpls.	Ptes.	TOTAL.
36	I	5	44	8	40	80	541	719

D. Mc C Buckle MAJOR.

Commanding 1st Bn Northumberland Fusiliers.

31st December 1917.

and L.G. fire from right Companies position at 21 d 55.55.

It is feared that none of our counter attacking party who reached trench must have been overwhelmed.

On learning of the withdrawal of the left company I ordered the 2 reserve platoons from TOWER TRENCH to main position in JOY RIDE and the supporting platoons to the right company to form a defensive flank Switching back from BOVIS Trench at 21 d 6555.

The part of BOVIS from Sunken road to W limit of objective is a very bad position and has no field of fire The ground is a mass of shell Craters and is commanded by the high ground to the N.W. The highest ridge of which appears to run NE to SW about 100 yards from BOVIS between the APEX and 21 d 37. and it is not considered advisable to occupy it unless the ridge is taken beyond and the enemy driven off the left also.

21/Nov/1917

W. L. Nuttall Lt
1/4th North'd Fus

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(*Erase heading not required.*) 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field	14th Jan	1917	Move of companies into new camp completed. Bde practice of future operations.	
	15th Jan	1917	Usual training and practice of future operations.	
	16th Jan	1917	Captain ALLEN - Lts LAWRENCE MC and PARTINGTON proceeded to the line with Bn snipers to arrange assembly position. Training continued.	
	17th Jan	1917	Brigadier General Porter commanding 76th Inf Bde addressed the Bn. He said that he had come on behalf of the 76th Inf Bde to thank personally the 1st Bn 6th Fusiliers for service rendered to his Bde on the last two occasions. Firstly at Infantry Hill in front of MONCHY and secondly and quite recently in front of ZONNEBEKE in Sept last. Bde practice of attack at dawn. General DEVERELL commanding 3rd Divn addressed all officers of 9th Inf Bde on completion of practice.	
	18th Jan	1917	The Bn took over the line in the LEFT SUB-SECTOR, BULLECOURT from the 2nd Bn SUFFOLK REGT. Relief completed @ 25 pm Disposition Right front Y Left front Z Support X (Sugar Trench) Reserve W (in front of ECOURT) Bn H Q in Railway Reserve	
	19th Jan	1917	A quiet day. Bn moved up to assembly positions starting at 12-30AM on 20th inst.	
	20th Jan	1917	Dispositions W Right front supported by Y. X left front supported by Z. The	

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(*Erase heading not required.*) / 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field			whole assembly being covered by a line of outposts provided on their respective flanks by Y and Z companies. The assaulting companies got away at 6.20 A.M. and captured the German position without very much serious opposition. The Left company were kept very busy defending their position throughout the day and were dislodged by a counter-attack about 4.20 p.m. For further account of operations previous to and subsequent to ZERO hour, see attached appendix.	
	21st Nov 1917		The work of consolidating the position now held was carried out with all speed. Constant patrolling and small raids were carried out day and night. The enemy did not shell our new position much on the 21st very little modification in his artillery fire could be observed, he still kept his barrage on Tower support.	
	22nd Nov 1917		Work of consolidation continued. Enemy artillery shell our old front line for the first time.	
	23rd Nov 1917		No change in position, consolidation still continued.	
	24th Nov 1917		In accordance with instructions received a very close watch was maintained on the enemy. It became evident that he held his front line opposite our left with a very small garrison. Patrols confirmed this.	
	25th Nov 1917		Lt Col BURNETT made a partial reconnaissance of the position with a view of taking over on the following night. About midday it was decided to occupy the enemy position opposite our left co extending also to a company front of the Royal Fusiliers on our left. This occupation was duly carried out according to plan and a line pushed out and consolidated in advance of the captured German Trench.	

Casualties

	Killed	Wounds	Missing
Officers	3	2	
O.R.	16	75	19.

Of the 19 Missing 12 belong to the Lyt- Foot Company.

The death of Lieut-PIELOU who was killed immediately after taking his Enemy trench was a very serious loss. Had he returned to command of his company it is probable that somewhat simpler dispositions for consolidation of the Enemy trench would have been adopted but it is doubtful if this would have avoided the Casualties caused by the Enemy Counter Bombardment which fell on the N.W. side of our new position

23rd Nov 1917

D. J. Munro Lt-Col
Comdg 1st Bn Nfld Regt

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