

**War Diaries 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tyneside Scottish) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers**  
**Pte Sydney Cuddy**  
**March 1918**

Prior to the engagement in which Pte Cuddy was killed, the battalion diary shows men bathed and underwent training activities. On 12<sup>th</sup> March the battalion moved forward to its position near ST LEGER. The men were employed in building shelters and training in Lewis Guns and rifle grenades. The battalion went to the front line on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**On the 21<sup>st</sup> March** the enemy attacked. His barrage opened at about 5.00 a.m. and was very intense. It consisted of HE (High Explosive) and GAS. The initial casualties on account of this were heavy.

11.00 a.m. The right forward company formed a defensive flank as the battalion on our right had been forced back.

Two platoons of the reserve company were sent to extend the flank westward.

11.30 Two rifle grenade sections of the reserve company were sent forward to assist the forward company.

1.00 p.m. 102<sup>nd</sup> LTMB section reported that the enemy were in ECOUST. One company 25<sup>th</sup> NF [Northumberland Fusiliers] were ordered to extend the defensive flank westwards along the ECOUST SWITCH.

Battalion HQ moved to left Bn HQ at U25 a 6060.

1.30 The enemy gained a footing in the front line of the right forward company as far north as GOG – and endeavoured to work northward but was held up.

3.00 p.m. The enemy was reported to be on the HOGS BACK. Two companies 25<sup>th</sup> NF were immediately ordered by Brigade to counterattack.

4.00 p.m. The enemy was seen advancing on the HOGS BACK towards CROISILLES.

5.00 p.m. The enemy was seen gathering on the west side of the railway bank between U2500.90 and U24d55.60.

The left company practically intact and the remainder of the three other companies made a fighting retirement northwards onto a line from FACTORY AVENUE to CROISILLES SWITCH NORTH.

When the enemy were on three sides three Lewis Guns and the HQ personnel of 22NF, 23NF and 25NF made a temporary redoubt of Battery HQ whilst all documents were burned and a fighting retirement was effected northwards.

The diary notes casualties:

Lt Col killed (CO)

11 named officers missing, 6 wounded

Other ranks Missing 446, killed 30 (including Cuddy), wounded 69.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> March**

The remainder of the battalion together with parties of 23NF and 25NF, J Coy RE and 102 Coy Pioneers held the CROISILLES SWITCH NORTH. The enemy entered St Leger and flank fighting ensued. Over the next couple of days the battalion marched first to ABLAIZEYELLE and then to BAILLEULMONT and was billeted for one night.

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WAR DIARY

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Sheet 3

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
U25 b 55.25	March 21	11am	<p>These were heavy. The Right forward company formed a defensive flank as the Battalion on our right had been forced back. Two platoons of the Reserve Company were sent to extend the flank westward.</p>	<p>Casualties Lt. Col. Blackburn Killed</p>
		11:30	<p>Two rifle grenade sections of the Reserve company were sent forward to assist the forward Company.</p>	<p>Missing Capt Brown S.A. Lt. Paulson W. Capt G. H. Capt G. E. Grant J.H. Pascoe B. Robinson J. Henry W. Oliver F.C. St. Paulson W. Dogg A. J.B.</p>
		1pm	<p>10th L.T.M.B. section reported that the enemy were in ECOUST. One Company 25<sup>th</sup> N.F. were ordered to extend the defensive flank westward along the ECOUST SWITCH. Battalion H.Q. moved to Left Bn. H.Q. at U25 a 60.60</p>	
U25 a 60.60		1:30	<p>The enemy gained a footing in the front line of the Right forward Company as far North as GOG and endeavoured to work northwards but was held up.</p>	<p>Wounded Capt Bibby R.H.</p>
		3pm	<p>The enemy was reported to be on the HOGS BACK. Two Companies 25<sup>th</sup> N.F. were immediately ordered by Pongaidi to Counter-attack.</p>	<p>Wounded Lt. Anderson G.S. Moore W.B. Leach A.E. Gallon R.B. Capt. Cooper G.S.</p>
		4pm	<p>The enemy was seen advancing on the HOGS BACK towards CROISILLES</p>	<p>Other Details Missing 46 Killed 30 Wounded 69</p>
		5pm	<p>The enemy was seen gathering on the W side of the Railway bank at between U25 00.90 and U24 d 55.60.</p>	<p>345</p>

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WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required.)

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*Sheet 4*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<del>March</del> 21	5pm	The Left Company practically intact and the remainder of the three other Companies made a fighting retirement Northwards on to a line from FACTORY AVENUE to CROISILLES SWITCH-NORTH. When the enemy were on three sides, Three Lewis Guns and the H.Q. personnel of 22NF, 23NF and 25NF made a temporary redoubt of Batt's H.Q. whilst all documents were burnt - and then a fighting retirement was effected Northwards.	
	22nd		The remains of the Batt. together with parties of 23NF and 25NF, J. Coy R.Es., and 102 Pioneer Company held the CROISILLES SWITCH NORTH. The enemy attempted to enter this trench N. of St. Legeur. In the afternoon the enemy entered St. Legeur and flank fighting ensued. The Battalion was relieved at night and returned to billets at MOYENVILLE	
MOYENVILLE	<del>22nd</del>			
ABLAINZEVILLE	23rd		The Battalion moved by march route to ABLAINZEVILLE where it occupies huts for the night.	
BAILLEULMONT	24th		The Battalion moved by march route to BAILLEULMONT where it was billeted for one night.	

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## WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Sheet 2.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELFAST CAMP	11 <sup>th</sup>		Second and third Battle Systems and covered routes to them. A complete kit inspection was held and men's kits were completed. Men were bathed. As much training as possible was carried on in the morning.	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		The Battalion moved forward to its assembly position in the Corps line and bivouaced. Headquarters were in the road 200 yards S. of St. LEGER.	Lt Lewis W. G. To England 100 July 15
	18 <sup>th</sup>		The Battalion was employed in building shelters. Lewis Gun classes and Rifle grenade instruction were carried out by day. The Battalion found working parties by night in the forward area. Continued daily reconnaissance of alternative positions in case of enemy attack - were carried out by all officers.	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		The Battalion went into the front line again taking over the right Subsector of the Right Brigade in the Divisional front. The disposition of companies was as follows. Right forward Company "D" Coy, Left forward Company "C" Coy, Support Company "B" Company, Reserve Company "A" Coy.	Capt. Brown T. G. forward 100 18th
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Enemy attacked. His barrage opened at about 5am and was very intense - particularly on the Support, reserve, dikes and BUNHILL ROW. It consisted of H.E. and GAS. The initial casualties on account of	
21 <sup>st</sup>				

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