

329TH INFANTRY UNIT JOURNAL

Month of April 1945

1 April 1945

- 0045 It has been directed that the regt make another move this morning. Part of CP will stay at present location until 0700 or 0800 and most of CP will move to new location at 0300. Col Crabill will remain at present location and move with last group.
- 0830 TF George reverted to regt'l control early this morning and has closed into the present Regt'l area.
- 1115 CP will move again right after dinner.
- 1230 CP closed out for new location.
- 1330 CP closed into new location at Ascheberg, WA 9254. It is believed we will make yet another move this afternoon, making it the third move today.
- 1555 CP closed out for new location.
- 1830 CP closed into new location at Beckum, after a move of approximately 20 miles. It is believed that we might remain in this present area for 1 or 2 days.

2 April 1945

- 0945 The present plan is that 95th Div will relieve 83d Div in present sector. 8th Armd Div will take Paderborn, go ahead on its mission and 83d will follow to clean up pockets of resistance and strong points.
- 1000 2nd Bn is having some action in their area with an enemy pocket which was by-passed by the armor.
- 2145 The following attachments are now with the regt for future operations. Co A, 643rd TD Bn; Co A, 308th Engr Bn; 322nd FA Bn; Co A, 736th Tk Bn.
- 2200 There are many German stragglers still in this area and 61 PW's were picked up today.

3 April 1945

- 0910 It has been directed that 1st and 3rd Bns prepare to move immediately and that all Special Units have their quartering parties ready to go at once.
- 1315 CP closed out for new location.
- 1430 CP closed into new location at WB 607557, vicinity Lohhude.
- 1440 CP will move again within the next few hours.
- 1500 1st Bn has jumped off and is clearing the town of Neuhausen. 3rd Bn is starting to move up through Sennegan. Neuhausen was cleared by armor but the enemy infiltrated back into the town.
- 1800 CP closed out for new location.
- 1835 CP closed into new location at Sennelager, WB 673534 making the third CP location for today.
- 2030 1st Bn has taken 200 prisoners in Neuhausen and are sending them back.

4 April 1945

- 0940 Capt Bunch has left to make rcn for a new location for CP.
- 0945 2nd Bn has been directed to move up to Bad Lippspringe, which is the tentative location for the regt'l CP.
- 1000 1st and 3rd Bns are moving through woods north of Bad Lippspringe and are making slow progress. 3rd Bn is in the lead with 1st Bn following.
- 1045 General Ferenbaugh came to CP. He notified Col Crabill that Div is holding our reserve Bn for Div reserve.
- 1047 I & R Plat, working up by 3rd Bn, has been directed to contact Well's outfit (Rcn Trp)
- 1050 3rd Bn is in Schlanger. Atchd to it are 1 Plat TD's, 1 Plat Tks, and 1 Plat Cn Co.
- 1100 2nd Bn has not moved yet and Col Crabill has sent a msg to Lt Col Sharpe to move out immediately without further delay.
- 1105 2nd Bn was directed to leave 1 Co in assembly area for Richie.
- 1110 General Ferenbaugh left CP.
- 1115 CP will move immediately after dinner.
- 1205 CP closed out for new location.
- 1330 CP closed into new location at Schlangen.
- 1340 General Macon and General Ferenbaugh arrived at CP.

4 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1355 3rd Bn has been working into the mountain pass in the Horrer Wald (forest) and are reported to be in as far as WB 810618. They have crossed FL-B and are nearly half way through the pass. 2nd Bn is on left of 3rd Bn and leading elements were last reported at WB 800637. They are about 2/3 of the way through the forest in their particular sector.
- 1420 General Macon left CP.
- 1445 Lt Magill has just returned from 3rd Bn and says that the report at 1355 on 3rd Bns position is wrong. The location of K Co is WB 787598 just at the edge of the woods. L Co is on their flank and extending in to Kohlstadt. There are some enemy tanks on the road in front of K Co.
- 1515 3rd Bn reports there are 2 enemy tks on the road in front of them. One tank is immobile and they do not know if the other is mobile or not.
- 1520 There is an enemy tank running around in our rear areas and a tank searching party from 1st Bn has been sent out to locate this tank.
- 1545 General Macon came to CP. He wants 2nd, and 3rd Bns to try to get on objectives 3 and 4 tonight.
- 1605 General Macon left CP.
- 1620 General Ferenbaugh left CP.
- 1622 2nd Bn is within approximately 1 km of objective No. 1.
- 1630 The tank searching party from 1st Bn has not yet located the enemy tank which is somewhere in our rear area.
- 2025 2nd Bn is on their objective. Bn CP has moved into Horn, WB 834647 and they are cleaning out the town. They have about 2/3 of the town and the enemy is putting up stiff resistance. 3rd Bn has been running into heavy 20mm fire and generally stiff resistance.
- 2045 2nd Bn will jump off early tomorrow morning following Task Force Richie.

5 April 1945

- 0800 Capt Bunch has left for Horn to make a rcn for a new CP.
- 0835 Col Crabill and Major Bagley have left for Horn to see how 2nd Bn is progressing.
- 0905 3rd Bn is now at Veldrome.
- 0932 3rd Bn reports that elements of Co I possibly have reached Horn, coming from the southwest.
- 0935 General Ferenbaugh came to CP.
- 0939 2nd Bn is starting to move out ahead from Horn. They are going to avoid using the roads so that TF Richie can pass through when they get started.
- 0950 General Ferenbaugh left CP to go to Horn to talk with Col Crabill;
- 1010 3rd Bn is on their objective and their CP is displacing forward.
- 1020 CP closed out for new location.
- 1045 CP closed into new location at Horn, WB 834647.
- 1105 2nd Bn is moving out towards Wobbel, which will be the next Regt'l CP location. 3rd Bn is moving towards Vinsebeck, following TF Richie.
- 1110 Col Crabill and Major Bagley have returned to CP.
- 1130 Capt Bunch has gone out on rcn for a new CP location.
- 1225 When 3rd Bn reaches Vinsebeck they will stop and be held in Div reserve. 1st Bn will pass through 3rd Bn and take over their sector.
- 1255 TF Richie has gone through Vinsebeck and 3rd Bn has reached the town. They will stop there and wait for 1st Bn to pass through.
- 1305 2nd Bn has not yet reached Wobbel. They are being held up by heavy 20mm fire and quite strong resistance. Capt Bunch has sent back a msg that he can establish a CP in Belle, which is 3km east of Wobbel. Col Crabill is returning a msg to Capt Bunch to set up the CP in Belle. CP will move as soon as 1st Bn clears through Horn on the road to Vinsebeck.
- 1435 1st Bn is now moving up through Horn towards Vinsebeck. CP will move to Belle within a short time.
- 1510 CP closed out for new location.
- 1535 CP closed into new location at Belle, 910675. CP will possibly move again this afternoon.
- 1550 It has been reported that 2nd Bn has taken Wobbel and is moving on ahead. 1st Bn has closed into Steinheim and 3rd Bn, in Div reserve, is remaining

5 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1550 in Visnebeck. 1st Bn is preparing to move ahead from Steinheim.
 1615 General Macon came to CP.
 1650 The right elements of TF Richie are being held up by A-T guns in the vicinity of Lothe, which is approximately 3km east of Steinheim. 1st Bn is following TF Richie and are about 1 mile east of Steinheim.
 1658 General Macon left CP.
 1755 The task force in front of 2nd Bn has met considerable resistance at Schieder, which is 4km northeast of Wobbel, but they have cleared most of the town and 2nd Bn is moving up to clean up and occupy the town.
 1815 General Ferenbaugh came to CP.
 1830 General Ferenbaugh left CP.
 1900 The CP will probably move up to Scheider this evening. Capt Bunch is at the town now, looking for a suitable CP location.
 1922 It has been decided not to move the CP forward tonight as Scheider has not been completely cleared yet.
 2300 250 PW's taken today.

6 April 1945

0820 Capt Bunch left for a rcn of the new CP area.
 0850 Major White came in and discussed his plan for going through 2nd Bn.
 0855 Col Crabill and Major White went out to see Col Ritchie. Maj Bagley went to inform Col Cook of the present situation.
 0930 CP will move to new location at Scheider, 975695.
 1015 CP closed out for new location.
 1038 CP closed into new location at Scheider.
 1045 2nd Bn has reached a point in the woods about 3km north east of Scheider. 3rd Bn is now passing through 2nd Bn, going between E and F Co's through a clearing in the woods.
 1100 1st Bn is now working through the woods east of Schwalenberg. B Co is cutting through the center of the woods while the remainder of the Bn is going through at a place to the right of B Co where the woods are not so deep.
 1118 General Macon and General Ferenbaugh came to CP. They are discussing the Weser River crossing plan with Col Crabill.
 1135 It has been reported that 3rd Bn has taken off and are now in Bad-Pyrmont, about 8km north east of Scheider.
 1136 Col Crabill estimates that 3rd Bn will be at the Weser River by 1400. Div has allotted the regt the following equipment for crossing the river: 34 assault boats; 4 power pontons for ferrying; 1 Inf support raft; and 1 class 40 bridge.
 1230 Capt Bunch has gone out on a rcn for a new CP.
 1305 3rd Bn reports that their forward elements have reached the Weser River at Grohnde, wC 160815 11 km northeast of Bad-Pyrmont.
 1314 1st Bn has reached a point about 3 1/2km of Schwalenberg. They have 1km more to go before they get out of the woods. They report that they are receiving arty fire from the south. It is believed that this is friendly fire and efforts are being made to contact the firing unit and have them cease firing.
 1353 Capt Bunch reports that he has found a suitable CP location in Iudge. The CP is preparing to move forward.
 1358 It has been reported that 3rd Bn is in Halle across the river. However it is believed that this report may be erroneous.
 1418 CP closed out for new location.
 1440 CP closed into new location at Iudge, 040745.
 1510 Capt Bunch has gone on a rcn for a new CP.
 1525 It has been confirmed that 3rd Bn crossed the river at Grohnde, swung to the right and moved southeast to Halle, 257787, a distance of 11km from where they established their bridgehead. The last report was that they are through Halle and moving rapidly.
 1545 TF Richie, working in front of 1st Bn, has been held up for some time at 0566. B Co has reached Elbrinken and the rest of 1st Bn attempted to move around to the left of TF Richie but were unable to do so because of bad roads.
 1615 The I & R plat reports that they are in Ratsiek, 1km northeast of Elbrinken and are cleaning up the town.

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6 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1835 Lt Magill came to CP from 1st Bn sector and reported that I & R Plat and Co B have cleared Sabbenhausen. 1st Bn is going to swing up to the left and by-pass the resistance on their front.
1905 It has been decided not to move the CP forward tonight.
1925 1st Bn reports that they are now moving out of Sabbenhausen towards Worderfeld, 0969.
1935 Col Crabill wishes to move 2nd Bn and 322nd FA Bn across the river tonight but Div will not grant us permission to use the bridge tonight.
2015 CP will move early tomorrow morning to Ottenstein, 10 Km east of Ludge.
2020 2nd Bn has moved up to the Weser River at 227778, 6 Km NE of Ottenstein. No further information has been received as to 3rd Bn's disposition.
2300 150 PW's were taken today.

7 April 1945

0800 Dispositions of the Bns this morning are as follows: Last night 1st Bn reach Vahlbruch, 1 1/2 Km NE of Worderfeld, and is still there this morning; F and G Co's are sitting on the east side of the river 3 Km east of Hehlen, 194780, and 2nd Bn CP is in Ottenstein; I Co is dispersed across the river from F and G Co's, L Co is directly across the river from Hehlen, K Co is in Hungen and Tuchteld, and 3rd Bn CP is in Halle.
0835 CP closed out for new location.
0905 CP closed into new location at Ottenstein, WC 150735.
0935 1st Bn reports that they are moving and are a short distance from Vahlbruch.
1000 One ferry is now working at Hehlen. The Engrs are working on the other ferry at Hehlen and one further south on the river.
1020 322nd FA Bn is going to cross the river on the bridge at Grohnde. 2nd Bn will send their tanks and TD's across the bridge but will ferry organic vehicles across.
1045 As soon as 2nd Bn is across the Weser, 2nd and 3rd will again take up the offensive and push on to the east. 3rd Bn is now preparing to assemble and move on.
1055 Regt'l CP will cross the river early this afternoon.
1215 Capt Bunch left the CP to make a rcn for a new CP location. The CP will move to the town of SCHARFOLDENDORF, 15 Km due east of Ottenstein.
1530 CP closed out for new location.
1800 CP closed in to new location at Eschershausen, 310717, 1 Km south of Scharfoldendorf. CP did not move into Scharfoldendorf because the town was too crowded with the other troops.
1815 Lt Magill came in to the CP and reports that the I & R platoon cleared Grunenplan a few hours ago. They were working ahead of the 3rd Bn. The I&R also disclosed an underground factory and liberated a POW camp, a concentration camp, and some small labor camps. In these camps were interned approximately 1000 prisoners of various nationalities.
1845 It is believed that there are many Germans still in the forest east of Eschershausen. Elements of the 3rd Bn are sweeping the forest now.
1915 3rd Bn has gone through Delligsen and is well on its way to the Leine River, which is about 3 Km east of Delligsen at the closest point. 3rd Bn is attempting to reach the river tonight. 2nd Bn is working on the left of the 3rd Bn but no recent report has been received of their progress. 1st Bn is still on the west side of the Weser but are going to cross tomorrow morning and move into Eschershausen.
1935 Civilians report that 300 SS troops pulled out of Delligsen yesterday and moved back across the Leine River to Alfeld, 4 Km north of Delligsen where there supposedly is a well trained SS regiment.
2005 Regt'l CP will move to the East through the mountain pass early tomorrow morning.
2300 1200 prisoners were taken today.

8 April 1945

0815 It is reported that 3rd Bn reached the Leine River at about 0130 and have established a bridgehead across the river. 3rd Bn has taken Kl Freden, just on the east side of the Leine, and are moving on ahead.

8 April 1945 (Cont'd)

0955 Regt'l CP will move to Delligsen this morning. If good progress is made by the Bns, the CP will move again this afternoon to Alfeld just across the Leine.

1035 CP closed out for new location.

1105 CP closed in to new location at Delligsen, 420737, 10 Km east of Eschershausen.

1107 1st Bn has been moving across the Wesel this morning and have almost completed their move.

1115 3rd Bn reports that they are advancing towards Lamspringe, 7 Km NE of Kl. Freden. Civilians have reported that there are 500 SS troops in Lamspringe.

1135 Lt Magill came to CP and reports that the I&R has discovered another underground factory, munitions factory, and a synthetic oil plant.

1140 Major Bagley came to CP and reports that 2nd Bn is not moving very fast although there apparently is nothing holding them up. It has been reported that there are no Germans left in Alfeld. CP will move there as soon as 2nd Bn goes through the town.

1145 3rd Bn was last reported to be 1500 yds SE of Lamspringe.

1200 Lt Magill is going out to reconnoiter the route to Alfeld.

1225 1st Bn is going to move into Delligsen for the present time.

1325 3rd Bn has gone through Lamspringe and it is believed that elements of the Bn are swinging back to the NW to clear the town of Graste, about 2 Km from Lamspringe.

1330 2nd Bn has gone through Alfeld, are now in Langenholzen, and are preparing to move on to Sack, 2 Km NE of Alfeld.

1350 3rd Bn has been directed to send rcn elements to Bockensen to secure the bridge there over the Nette River.

1445 CP closed out for new location.

1530 CP closed in to new location at Alsfeld, 435785.

1610 2nd Bn is now on their objective on a line running through Wrisberg, Grafelde, Sehenstadt, and Adenstedt. 1st Bn is moving to Alfeld.

1930 2nd Bn is still in the same position as at 1610. 3rd Bn is still in Graste and Lamspringe. 83rd Rcn Troop is reconnoitering the ground in front of them.

2015 2nd and 3rd Bns have "buttoned up" and will hold in their present positions. It is believed that the regt will stop for at least 36 hours to give the troops an opportunity to rest and to perform maintenance on the tanks, TD's and organic vehicles.

2300 166 PW's were taken today.

9 April 1945

0945 Capt Bunch left CP to make rcn for a new CP location. CP will probably move to Lamspringe this afternoon.

1300 The regt will "sit tight" until Wednesday morning, 11 April 45. At that time the regt will resume the offensive. QM trucks will be furnished to move troops in the event of another fast moving situation as is contemplated.

1445 CP closed out for new location.

1520 CP closed in to new location at Lamspringe, 5776, 12 Km SE of Alfeld.

1745 A change in orders has been received from Div. The situation has been set ahead 24 hours and the regt will start moving again tomorrow. The main objective for tomorrow is Halberstadt, 100 miles W of Berlin.

2300 235 prisoners were taken today.

10 April 1945

0835 1st and 3rd Bns jumped off at 0800 and are reported to be making good progress. 2nd Bn is being held in reserve.

0930 Capt Bunch has left to make rcn for new CP.

1026 1st Bn has crossed Phase Line Cherrie. 3rd Bn is in Hohausen waiting for 1st Bn to clear. They are running into no opposition. 1st Bn has 5 PW's.

1030 CP closed out for new location.

1100 CP closed in to new location at Bornum, 655782, 9 Km E of Lamspringe. It is believed the CP will move again within the next hour as 1st and 3rd Bns are making rapid progress.

1135 CP closed out for new location.

10 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1400 The PW's report 16 more with a panzer force along the railroad.
 1405 1st Bn forward elements are at the roadblock west of Langelsheim.
 1415 The Bn CP is at Neuekrug.
 1417 3rd Bn reports that the roadblock, which has been holding them up northeast of Langelsheim, has been reduced.
 1417 1st Bn is entering Goslar and is receiving a small amount of small arms fire.
 1450 CP closed out for new location.
 1525 CP closed into new location at Langelsheim 785744 7 km east of Hahausen.
 1715 CP closed out for new location.
 1845 CP closed into new location at Oker, 8970, 11 km south east of Langelsheim, after a short stop over in Goslar. The CP will remain in Oker for the night.
 1930 During this afternoon 1st Bn reached Schlevecke, 9270, 4km east of Oker. 2nd Bn is in Harlingrode, 9171. All Bns are buttoning up for the night. Tomorrow morning, 3rd Bn will continue their advance from Vienenburg towards the objective Halberstadt; 2nd Bn will go in between 1st and 3rd Bns and push towards the objective, by-passing the woods to their front if resistance is encountered there; and 1st Bn will clear that part of the Forest Harzburg that lies in the Regt'l area and drive on for the objective. It is believed that the objective, Halberstadt, will easily be reached tomorrow as it is open ground most of the way, there being very little woods or other natural obstacles to be encountered. 2nd Bn will jump off at 0700 and 1st and 3rd Bns at 0800.
 2300 228 prisoners were taken today.

11 April 1945

- 0845 Capt Bunch has gone on rcn for a new CP location.
 0855 The Bns jumped off on time and are reported to be making good progress against light resistance.
 0930 Col Crabill, Major Bagley have gone forward.
 1015 CP closed out for new location.
 1100 CP closed into new location at Abbensode, 9974, 10km north east of Oker, after a short stop over in Veinenburg.
 1125 The Bns are still making rapid progress against light opposition towards the objective, Halberstadt. CP will move again within a short time.
 1205 CP closed out for new location.
 1245 CP closed into new location at Veckenstedt, WD 0671, 6km south east of Abbensode.
 1425 3rd Bn has reached Athenstedt, 7km north west of Halberstadt and 2nd Bn is at Derenburg, 7km south west of Halberstadt. 2nd Bn will go into Halberstadt and 3rd Bn will go to the north of the city.
 1510 CP closed out for new location.
 1530 CP closed into new location at Langlen, WD 1072, 4km north east of Veckenstedt.
 1630 2nd Bn has reached Halberstadt and 3rd Bn is advancing to the east, north of the city. Since 1417 hours yesterday, forward elements of the regt have driven 44km (on a straight line) to the east.
 1705 CP closed out for new location.
 1830 CP closed into new location at Halberstadt, WD 2871, 16km east of Langlen, after several delays enroute.
 2015 Part of 2nd Bn is now in Wegekben, 7km east of Halberstadt, and the remainder of the Bn is in Harsleben, 3km north east of Halberstadt. 3rd Bn is in Gr. Quenstedt, 3km north east of Halberstadt, and is advancing on towards the city of Groningen, 7km east of the Bns present position. It is believed that 3rd Bn will possibly reach Kroppenstedt, 6km east of Groningen, before they stop for the night. The city of Kroppenstedt is approximately 17 miles west of the Elbe River at its nearest point and approximately 85 miles west of the outskirts of Berlin. 1st Bn is in Halberstadt, with the exception of one company which is clearing Forst Heteborn, 5km north west of Halberstadt.
 2135 The objective for tomorrow's attack is to reach the Elbe River.
 2300 1478 prisoners were taken today and approx. 5000 were overrun in Hosp.

12 April 1945

- 0835 Capt Bunch has left to make rcn for a new CP.
 1015 CP closed out for new location.
 1215 CP closed into new location at Biere, 6982, 35kms east of Halberstadt.
 1225 3rd Bn is now reported to be at Gnadau, 7kms west of the Elbe River. 2nd Bn has cleared Atzendorf and is advancing on towards Eickendorf. 1st Bn is still following up behind 3rd Bn.
 1227 Col Crabill has directed Capt Brand, of Co. A, 308th Engrs, to bring up the assault boats and bridging material so everything will be ready when we reach the river.
 1240 The air OP of 322nd FA Bn reports that the railroad bridge over the Elbe at 850835 appears to be still intact. Col Crabill has directed 3rd Bn to attempt to secure the bridge and cross the river.
 1245 2nd Bn reports that Eickendorf has been cleared and leading elements are now in Gr. Muhlingen.
 1310 1st Bn has been directed to move up to Guadau behind 3rd Bn. 1st Bn may cross the Elbe River in assault boats, tonight if 3rd Bn does not secure the bridge.
 1318 The engrs are going to move the assault boats and bridging materials up to Guadau.
 1350 2nd Bn is now in Kl. Muhlingen. 3rd Bn is fighting into Barby and are meeting some resistance.
 1435 CP will move forward as soon as wire communication is established with rear.
 1510 2nd Bn reports that they are 1000 yards east of Kl. Muhlingen.
 1520 3rd Bn is meeting strong resistance and are receiving some mortar fire, the first since the beginning of the present operation.
 1525 The forward command group has left for Kl. Muhlingen which will be the next CP location.
 1620 2nd Bn has reached Tornitz, 4km south west of Barby.
 1710 CP closed out for new location.
 1745 CP closed into new location at Kl. Muhlingen 7579, 6km south east of Biere.
 1825 3rd Bn is still encountering strong resistance at Barby and 2nd Bn is going to swing to the north east and help 3rd Bn take the town.
 2040 Major Bagley has returned from 3rd Bn and reports that both 2nd and 3rd Bns are meeting strong resistance in Barby and are making no progress at present. The town has a very strong perimeter defense and the enemy has been throwing some mortar and timed arty fire.
 2050 The railroad bridge across the Elbe has been blown. It has been reported that one span was completely blown and at least two others of the seven or eight span bridge severely damaged.
 2125 Div wants the regt to establish a bridgehead across the river tonight but has left the decision up to Col Crabill. 2nd and 3rd Bns have been going hard today and the troops are pretty tired. 1st Bn troops are in good shape and they will be used to establish the bridgehead if a sufficient section of the southern part of Barby is cleared to permit the movement of the assault boats up to the crossing site south of the town.
 2126 Lt Col Cook, Capt Brand, and 1st Bn Co Comdrs have gone to rcn the river crossing site.
 2145 It has been decided not to attempt a river crossing tonight. 2nd & 3rd Bns are being directed to button up for the night, and be prepared to continue the attack at 0800 tomorrow morning to clear Barby. 1st Bn has been directed to be prepared to establish a bridgehead under cover of smoke over the river at 1000, at which time it is contemplated the town will be sufficiently clear. Plans are being made tonight for the crossing.
 2300 Approximately 600 prisoners were taken today.

13 April 1945

- 0805 The radio news reported this morning that President Franklin D. Roosevelt died yesterday at 1535 (EST) in Warm Springs. Vice-President Harry S. Truman was sworn in as President of the United States a few hours after the official announcement of President Roosevelt's death.

13 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 0820 2nd Bn reports that at least 6 enemy planes bombed Barby during the night. Co G sustained several casualties when a bomb made a direct hit on one of their houses.
- 0845 2nd & 3rd Bns did not get off on time this morning. Col Crabill has directed them to send patrols into Barby as it has been reported that the civilians were out on the streets, indicating that the enemy troops have possibly withdrawn from the town. An air mission previously requested on the town is being called off so as not to endanger our patrols. 2nd and 3rd Bns will coordinate their plans and will report when they are ready to jump off. Col Crabill wants 1st Bn to cross the Elbe before the enemy has a chance to get set on the east side of the river. Due to the delay in this morning's attack the crossing will not be attempted before 1100 or 1200.
- 0915 2nd Bn reports that a conference has been held with the Burgermeister of Barby and he reports that there are no enemy troops now in the town. The Burgermeister will raise the white flag and our troops will go in peaceably but ready for action. 3rd Bn is being notified of this development.
- 0920 Col Crabill has sent a message to Lt Col Cook to be prepared to cross the Elbe as soon as 2nd and 3rd Bns go into Barby, which will be shortly after 0945.
- 0930 Col Crabill has directed Lt Col Sharpe to tell Lt Col Cook to start putting down an arty preparation on the other side of the river. When Barby is cleared, 2nd Bn will move south to the ferry site at 867816 and 1st Bn will cross at Barby as it is believed the greater part of the enemy force has moved to the east side of the river, opposite the ferry site, in contemplation of an attempted crossing at that point.
- 0945 Forward command group has moved forward to Wespen, 5km north east of Kl. Muhlingen.
- 1000 It has been reported a German officer told the civilians in Barby to stay in their cellars because the town was going to be bombed and shelled by the Germans.
- 1010 Fighter cover is being requested over Barby in case the enemy attempts to bomb the city.
- 1020 2nd Bn is reported to be advancing into Barby and meeting no opposition.
- 1200 The forward command group has moved from Wespen to Barby.
- 1205 General Macon came to CP.
- 1235 General Macon left CP.
- 1345 1st Bn jumped off at 1330 and are crossing the river in assault boats at 865820. They report no resistance encountered. 2nd Bn will follow 1st Bn over.
- 1355 CP closed out for new location.
- 1425 CP closed into new location at Barby, 8582.
- 1445 2nd Bn is now in the process of crossing the river. They are also crossing in assault boats. A bridge will be built in the bridgehead area. Work is being started on it now.
- 1555 Telephone communication has been established with 1st Bn and they report that they are now in Walternienburg, 2km east of the crossing site, and they are receiving some small arms fire.
- 1625 E and F Co's are now across the Elbe and G Co is going to cross at 1700.
- 1635 General Macon came to CP.
- 1705 2nd Bn reports that Co E is receiving some arty fire. Major Orr is getting the arty to fire some counter-battery.
- 1713 Col Crabill returned to CP from OP.
- 1716 General Macon left CP.
- 1730 General Macon does not want our troops on the east side of the Elbe to advance beyond the limits of arty support, which is the general vicinity of Walternienburg. The arty will be moved across tomorrow as soon as possible.
- 1815 It is estimated that the bridge will be completed at about 0400 tomorrow morning. The arty will have priority on use of the bridge.
- 2030 1st and 2nd Bns are buttoning for the night. They report several enemy tanks to their front.
- 2300 188 prisoners were taken today.

14 April 1945

- 0805 A series of enemy counter-attacks were made against our forces across the river last night but were broken up by arty fire. The counter-attacks consisted of infantry and about 7 tanks, 2 of which were knocked out. 3rd Bn was moved across the river during the night in contemplation of a strong enemy counter-attack. The bridge was completed at approximately 0500 and the organic vehicles of the Bns are being moved across. This is the first bridge to be completed across the Elbe River.
- 0845 It has been reported that the bridge was damaged by a tank which was crossing no more tanks will be able to cross until the bridge is repaired.
- 0935 Major Bagley returned to CP from the bridge and reports that the bridge has been repaired and our light tanks are now moving across. 2nd Armd Div has requested to use our bridge to send some of their tanks over. Their column is now on the way to Barby. 322nd FA Bn has not been able to move across because their trucks have gone back for ammunition. Col Crabill wants to get the arty across before the regt jumps off again in the attack.
- 0940 PW's report that a new division is being formed in the city of Zerbst, 9km east of Walternienburg. An ultimatum is being given over the telephone to the Burgermeister of Zerbst. If the city does not surrender, an air mission will be carried out on it. Arrangements are being made for the air mission.
- 0945 Major Callaghan reports that elements of 3 new divisions have been identified on our front and the enemy appears to be building up a strong force in the vicinity of Zerbst.
- 1008 The 2nd Armd column will arrive at the bridge at about 1100.
- 1015 Div wants the regt to jump off this afternoon towards Zerbst. The arty trucks have not yet returned and Col Crabill does not want to attack until we are able to get arty support across the Elbe.
- 1114 Telephone lines to Zerbst have been cut and it was not possible to contact the Burgermeister there.
- 1205 2nd Armd column is now going across on the bridge.
- 1335 1st and 3rd Bns will attack to the east towards Zerbst at 1600 this afternoon. CP will probably move to the east side of the Elbe early this evening.
- 1415 322nd FA Bn will cross on the bridge as soon as the 2nd Armd column is across. They are now waiting for the 2nd Armd column to clear.
- 1420 It has been reported that the 2nd Armd Div is receiving a strong counter-attack on their bridge-head to the north. Their bridgehead has been reduced to 1km in depth and 3km in width.
- 1540 The attack for this afternoon has been called off. It will probably be launched tomorrow morning.
- 1715 Reports from 2nd Armd indicate that they have lost their bridgehead and also 3 Bns of Armd infantry. This report is not official and it is believed it may be greatly exaggerated.
- 1910 7 Bns of medium and hvy arty are being moved up in the rear. Div has ordered the regt to go into the defense and prepare to hold our present positions.
- 2300 50 prisoners were taken today.

15 April 1945

- 0800 Orders for the attack this morning were received from Div during the night. 1st and 3rd Bns will jump off at 0930. CCR of 2nd Armd under 83d Div control, on our left, and 331st Inf on our right, will also attack at 0930. Objective of the attack is to seize the Div bridgehead and take the city of Zerbst. An air mission will be carried out on that city before 1300.
- 0845 Col Crabill and Major Bagley left CP to go forward. CP will probably move late this morning or early this afternoon, depending on the progress made in this morning's attack.
- 0948 Forward CP reports that 1st and 3rd Bns jumped off on time at 0930.
- 1028 1st Bn has advanced into the woods east of Walternienburg and are meeting some resistance. 3rd Bn is about 600 yards north east of the town and are advancing to the north east.
- 1100 Forward elements of 3rd Bn have entered the town of Gutergluck, 3km northeast of Walternienburg.

15 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1220 have been meeting considerably heavy resistance. 3rd Bn is clearing up in Gutergluck where resistance has been strong also.
1440 CP closed out for new location.
1515 CP closed into new location at Walternienburg, 8982.
1545 I & K Companies have cleaned up Gutergluck and L Co is south of the town. 1st Bn is nearly through the woods. CCR is reported to be in Gehrden and 331st Inf has taken Hohnlepte.
1550 It has been reported that Lt Col Speedie, 3rd Bn Comdr has been wounded. Major White is taking command of the Bn.
1615 It is not believed that Zerbst will be reached today. An air mission will be carried out on the city tomorrow and an attack for the city will be launched after that.
1915 1st Bn broke out of the woods east of Walternienburg and are now reported to be in Nutha, 3km west of Zerbst. 331st Inf is still in Hohenlepte, about 4km south west of Zerbst.
1925 3rd Bn reports that they have captured a German Bn comdr. He is being sent up immediately for interrogation.
2300 253 prisoners were taken today. Most of the prisoners were quite young and put up very fanatical resistance.

16 April 1945

0800 A strong German counter-attack, supported by arty and tanks, was launched on the Div front at 0600. 1st and 3rd Bns and 331st Inf held their ground after fierce fighting and arty dispersed the attacking enemy. However CCR of 2nd Armd Div, on our left flank, forced to draw their tks out of Gehrden and send them south to Gutergluck, where the main force of the counter attack was encountered. 3rd Bn contained the counter-attack in their part of Gutergluck and assisted CCR in eliminating the enemy penetration in their section of the town.
0910 3 enemy tks and 1 enemy assault gun were knocked out in the course of the counter-attack this morning. 1 large tk was hit 8 times but could not be knocked out.
0925 1 Bn of 35th Div is being atchd to regt to assist in protecting our north flank.
1000 An air mission is now being carried out on Zerbst. Div wants the regt to launch an attack for the city this morning. Col Crabill believes if we push on ahead to Zerbst the enemy will attack our north flank where our line of defense would be very thin, and attempt to seize the bridge.
1020 General Simpson is going to dedicate the bridge this morning. It will be dedicated to President Truman.
1045 General Macon has advised Col Crabill that div will probably not order the regt to attack this morning.
1100 Col Crabill believes Zerbst can be taken with a Bn of infantry and a platoon of tanks as PW's report there is nothing in the town now.
1250 Plans for the continuation of the offensive have been changed and the Regt has been directed to take up defensive positions.
1445 Plans for the defense of the Regt's sector are being drawn up this afternoon.
1615 Co B, 643rd TD Bn, has been released from atachment to the regt, effective 1600.
1720 1st Bn, 330th Inf, is being attached to the regt, effective 1800. This Bn will be used to help protect the north flank and is being given to regt in place of the Bn of 35th Div.
2250 General Macon called CP and informed us that a rumor is circulating to the effect that the Germans are going to put 500 troops over the Elbe north of Barby to attack from the north and west to destroy our bridge. Steps are being taken to set up a defense against this threat.
2315 Major Benion, 2nd Bn Ex O, has been put in charge of the defense of Barby. "G" Co is being sent to the town to set up defenses with the help of Serv Co and other units in the town. The I&R is going to the north to try to contact the enemy. Capt Gust is going to organize defense of the immediate bridge area with the available part of AT Co, Co "A", 308th Engrs, and the AA unit at the bridge.

17 April 1945

- 0815 Nothing resulted during last night from the rumor that 500 Germans were going to cross the Elbe with the mission of destroying our bridge.
- 0915 1st Bn, 330th Inf, closed into Walternienburg at 0500 this morning.
- 1315 Co "G", 330th Inf, has relieved our Co "G" in Barby. Co "G" has rejoined the 2nd Bn.
- 1800 Everything has been very quiet today, the only activity being our artillery firing on enemy movement and other targets.
- 2130 Enemy aircraft were over the bridgehead area at about 2030. Some bombs were dropped but none were near the bridge. About 10 enemy planes took part in the activity.

18 April 1945

- 1045 It is reported that the enemy counter-attacked in the 331st Inf sector at about 1000. It is believed the counter-attack was in bn strength. No deep penetration has been made by the enemy.
- 1525 The counter-attack in 331st sector is still going on but the enemy penetration has been blocked and stopped. Some enemy infiltrated through 331st lines into some woods but are being cleared out.
- 1810 1st Bn, 330th Inf, has been relieved by 2nd Bn, 320th Inf, and is moving into sector behind 331st Inf. 2nd Bn, 320th Inf, has been attached to the regiment. 2nd plat, Co "B", 736th Tk Bn, which has been with 1st Bn, 330th Inf, is remaining with the 329th Inf.
- 2130 More enemy air activity took place tonight. About 15 enemy planes were over, bombing and strafing in the bridgehead area. No bombs landed closer than 300 yds to the bridge.

19 April 1945

- 1005 320th Inf regt will relieve CCR on our left today. This will release our 2nd Bn which will take up a reserve position. "G" Co will again be taken from 2nd Bn and atchd to CCR, which is taking one company from 320th, 329th and 330th.
- 1315 More supporting artillery has arrived in the area today. It is now possible to call for a 9 bn TOT.
- 1645 The regtl sector was widened by 1000 yds today and 1st and 3rd Bns shifted positions to cover the sector. New defense plans are being made up to be submitted to div.
- 1815 2nd plat, Co "B", 736th Tk Bn, and 3rd plat, Co "B", 643rd TD Bn, were taken from the regt today.

20 April 1945

- 1250 330th Inf, which has had the mission of cleaning out enemy pockets of resistance in the Harz Mountains, is being relieved of that mission by elements of 8th Armd Div and will move into the Div sector this afternoon.
- 1345 Colonel Boyle called and notified Lt Col Pack that Lt Gen Simpson, Ninth Army Comdr, will possibly visit the regimental CP within the next 2 hours.
- 1520 Lt Gen Simpson, Major Gen McClean, and Major Gen Macon arrived at the CP.
- 1535 Lt Gen Simpson congratulated Colonel Crabill and praised the swift aggressive action of the regiment in the recently concluded drive to the Elbe River and the establishment of the bridgehead across the river. He also informed Col Crabill that we will continue to hold our present positions and wait for the Russians to advance to our bridgehead and effect a link-up with us. It has been reported that the Russians have launched their offensive towards Berlin.
- 1610 Lt Gen Simpson, Major Gen McClean, and Major Gen Macon left the CP.
- 2000 330th Inf has closed into its new assembly area vic of Walternienburg. The regtl CP is located in the town.

21 April 1945

- 0900 During last night 1st and 3rd Bns sent out patrols east towards Zerbst. They reported enemy in a few places but the enemy line appears to be lightly held.
- 1115 330th Inf is relieving 320th Inf on our left today.
- 1605 Co "I" relieved Co "K" today and Co "K" has gone into 3rd Bn reserve.

22 April 1945

- 1115 A task force from 2nd Bn has been alerted to be able to start out on 30 minutes notice to meet the Russians. The TF will consist of: F Co; 1 plat med tanks; 1 plat TDs; 2 plats lt tanks; 1 plat of engrs; 1 mines squad; 1 plat HMGs; 1 section 81 mm mortars; 1 rcn plat from the TD Bn; and the I & R platoon.
- 1205 A Russian First Lieutenant, formerly a German prisoner, has reported in from division and will attempt to contact Russian forces by radio. The Russians are reported to have swept past Berlin and it is believed they are advancing rapidly towards our bridgehead and possibly are already with range of the division radio set which is attached to the regiment.
- 1410 A civilian is being sent into Zerbst this afternoon to give the enemy an ultimatum. We are giving them an opportunity to surrender the city and save it from further shelling and bombing. If they choose not to surrender, the city will continue to be shelled and bombed.
- 1815 The Russian lieutenant, Theo Frissjaschnjuk, has been trying to establish radio contact with the Russians. He can hear the Russians transmitting fire data, etc, but cannot get an answer to his transmissions.
- 1840 The civilian sent to Zerbst this afternoon has returned and reports that he was unable to contact anyone there who was authorized to surrender the city.

23 April 1945

- 0945 Arty liaison planes are up and have been instructed to be on the watch for Russian troops approaching from the east. The Russian lieutenant now with the regt is still trying to establish radio contact with the Russian forces.
- 1025 The patrol which has been organized to enter Zerbst and make contact with the Russians is still on the alert.
- 1415 The radio attempting to contact the Russians has received an answer to their calls. The answer was: "Who are, who are you - I hear you beautifully. You have a wonderful radio". It is believed this reply was transmitted by the Germans.
- 1635 Reported to be in communication with the Russians. The Russians have not disclosed their position as yet but are believed to be 10 miles east of Zerbst.
- 1640 Frequency has been changed on the radio and are now receiving better.
- 1645 Colonel Crabill wants to go into Zerbst and meet the Russians by 1000 tomorrow morning.
- 1650 Two Russian operators have picked our radio up. One is very strong and one is weak. The Germans are interfering with the strong set.
- 1700 We are in contact with a Russian tank outfit who in turn is going to give word to the Russians' higher hqs.
- 1705 When we contact the Russians, our men will identify themselves by having an American flag on our leading vehicle.
- 1715 (CG Telephone Msg) CG wants the Russians to meet us in Walternienburg, although these plans may be changed.
- 1750 Arrangements with the Russians are now being made by radio for a link-up which will probably take place tomorrow. It has not yet been decided in which city the meeting will take place.

23 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1815 The name of the Div and Div Comdr, Gen Macon, and our location have been radioed to the Russians and they, in return, are going to transmit their unit designation and location.
- 1835 No answer to our request as to the location of the Russians has yet been received from them.
- 1905 Patrols will be sent into Zerbst shortly after dark tonight to determine whether or not the Germans have evacuated the city and to determine which routes are the best approaches to the city.
- 1945 Col Crabill notified Lt Col Sharpe that a party will probably go out tomorrow at about 1000 to meet the Russians on the western outskirts of Zerbst. The party will consist of Gen Macon, Col Crabill, various members of the Div staff, possible some staff officers from XIX Corps or Ninth Army, correspondents and photographers, and an escort composed of tanks and Co "F". Col Crabill wants Lt Col Sharpe to have a large American flag mounted on one of the medium tanks and have Co "F" prepared to participate in a formal meeting ceremony. All these plans are tentative as no answer has yet been received from the Russians as to their positions.
- 2020 Lt Magill came to CP from his OP and reports that the Germans appear to be reinforcing the city of Zerbst. More enemy activity has been observed in the vic of the city than on previous days. Lt Magill says he believes it will require more than one bn to get into the city. Col Crabill directed him to keep patrols out most of the night to check on enemy activity and determine the strength of enemy defenses on the outskirts of the city.

24 April 1945

- 0845 PWs taken early this morning, report that one bn is holding the city of Zerbst. The bn is quite strong, having about 120 men per company, and 3 or 4 companies in the bn. It has no tks or assault guns but is supported by some light inf howitzers and mortars. The PWs also said that rumors had been going around that the Americans had broken diplomatic relations with the Russians and that the Americans and the Germans would join to fight the Russians. This bn in Zerbst was supposedly to have been relieved during the night but the PWs did not know if the relief has been completed.
- 0850 We are still trying to contact the Russians by radio. Three Russian stations have been picked up this morning but they will not answer our calls. No answer has been received to our request made yesterday as to the location of the Russian forces.
- 0905 Therregt will possibly attack to capture the city of Zerbst this morning, if Div gives us permission to go ahead.
- 0955 In a telephone conversation with Col Crabill, Gen Macon suggested that we send out a civilian on a motorcycle to inquire around the city of Zerbst as to the location of the Russians.
- 1005 It has been decided to send a civilian to the south of Zerbst to Jutrichau to attempt to get information on the Russians' locations and another civilian to the north of Zerbst for the same purpose.
- 1035 Lt Magill and Lt MacFarlane, 3rd Bn S-2, have been instructed to ask for civilian volunteers from their particular areas to go on the mission mentioned above.
- 1115 Div has directed that we send 2 officers back to the vic of Hornberg, a few kms west of Halberstadt, to make a reconnaissance of that general area. It is believed this may be a tentative assembly area for the regt although no further details have been disclosed by Div.
- 1235 We have again established radio communication with the Russians. A tank comdr answered our calls, asked for unit identification, and said he would pass the information back to higher hqs that we are trying to contact the commander of the Russian forces.

24 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1250 Lt Magill reports that 2 civilians have volunteered to go through the lines to attempt to determine where the Russian forces are. They are going on foot so as not to arouse the suspicions of the German Army. In return for their services they have been promised food, cigarettes, candy, etc., and will be allowed to cross to the west side of the Elbe River to proceed on to their homes. It is believed they will return at about 1900. A similar proposition is being made to civilians in 3rd Bn's area in an attempt to obtain volunteers.
- 1350 I & R OP reports that there appears to be a decrease in military activity and control in Zerbst today. The civilians are moving about more freely than previously and children have been observed playing in the streets. It is believed that the German forces have been pulled out of the city and the relieving unit has not yet arrived.
- 1440 We have again contacted the Russians by radio but no satisfactory information as to their location has been obtained. The only Russians we have been able to contact are front line tankers who do not have authority to divulge the information we want. They say they will contact higher hqs and call back but no answer has been received from them.
- 1540 Col Crabill left CP to go to I & R OP.
- 1625 General Macon came to CP.
- 1640 General Macon left CP.
- 1725 Col Crabill returned to CP.
- 1840 Lt MacFarlane reports that the civilian, whom he sent out this afternoon, has returned. The civilian reports that other civilians whom he talked to stated that the Russians were reported yesterday to be in Treuenbrietzen, approx 55 km NE of Zerbst. Other civilian reports are that the Russians have reached Wiesenburg, about 26 km NE of Zerbst. Civilians claim that the Russians are supposedly swinging up to the north now to complete the encirclement of Berlin.
- 1935 The radio has not been able to contact the Russians again but we are going to keep trying until about 2100.

25 April 1945

- 0840 Reports this morning indicate that the Germans' relieving force has finally arrived on our front. The unit being relieved pulled out during the night of 23-24 April, supposedly to move east to stop the Russian advance, and left only a very small holding force behind. There were no indications yesterday that any new troops were moving in on our front. The 331st Inf took over positions yesterday that had been vacated by the Germans. During last night approx 100 en troops attempted to march in and re-occupy the positions, apparently not knowing that American troops were there. A short fight followed, 20 PWs were taken, then the 331st dropped back to their former positions.
- 0950 A psychological warfare team has been attached and is being sent up to the I & R to broadcast. Another loudspeaker unit is working with 3rd Bn.
- 1645 No results have been obtained today from our attempts to contact the Russians by radio.
- 1835 Div reports that the 102nd Div made physical contact with Russians to our north this afternoon. This report is unofficial.

26 April 1945

- 0830 Col Crabill has called a meeting of the staff and Bn and Sp Unit Comdrs to be held at 1000.
- 0935 Quite a large number of Germans have surrendered to 1st & 3rd Bns this morning. They have been walking in in groups of 25 and 30. About 80 have surrendered this morning and more are coming in. This might be a result of the psychological warfare broadcasts yesterday.

26 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1010 Div notified us that it has been officially reported that the 69th Inf Div last night linked up with the Russians to our south.
- 1335 Arty liaison plane has reported that several white flags are flying in Zerbst. Col Crabill has directed the I & R platoon to investigate the possibility that the Germans have withdrawn from the city.
- 1345 The psychological warfare team is going to broadcast from the I & R sector this afternoon.
- 1355 Gen Macon came to CP. He is going to the bns to decorate members of the regiment.
- 1400 Gen Macon and Col Crabill left CP to go to the bns.
- 1645 Col Crabill returned to CP.
- 1845 Major White came to CP and reported that a German Major and Lt Col came to our lines late this afternoon under a flag of truce with a letter from German Lt Gen Koehler. The letter requested that we take 6000 wounded German soldiers and 500 German WACs from Wiesenburg and evacuate them behind our lines. Major White did not give an answer but arranged for another meeting with the German officers tomorrow morning at 1000. Major Callaghan is going to take the letter back to Div to get Gen Macon's decision on it.
- 2130 It has been reported that the 102nd Div has contact with the Russians by patrol only.
- 2305 Major Callaghan returned to CP. The letter from Lt Gen Koehler was taken on to XIX Corps and Maj Gen McClean in turn called Ninth Army. It was decided to refuse the German request to evacuate the 6000 wounded and 500 women. The answer will be conveyed to the Germans at a meeting tomorrow morning.
- 2310 It has been reported that a large number of German soldiers want to surrender to 330th Inf.
- 2315 Attempts to contact the Russians by radio were continued today but no answer was received to our calls.
- 2330 108 prisoners were taken today. This is the first large number taken for several days. It is believed the broadcasts by the psychological warfare team was very instrumental in bringing the surrender of these prisoners.

27 April 1945

- 0910 The surrender of 896 German soldiers and 41 officers, including a Colonel, to the 330th Inf was effected early this morning after the approval of Div. The unit was a regiment minus one bn.
- 0945 Col Crabill is going to decorate 19 men of the regiment at 1000.
- 1050 3rd Bn reports that Capt Schommer and Lt MacFarlane have gone into Zerbst to give our answer to the Germans' request for evacuation of their wounded.
- 1235 Lt MacFarlane came to CP. He told the German Comdr in Zerbst that we would take the German wounded if the Germans would surrender Zerbst and all the German troops in the city. From his observations Lt MacFarlane believes there are about 500 German troops in and around the city. The German Comdr will come to our lines at 1600 with his answer. Col Crabill will be present to meet him.
- 1410 General Ferenbaugh came to CP.
- 1420 General Ferenbaugh informed Col Crabill that the regt will move back to the general vicinity of Halberstadt when we are relieved in our present area by the Russians. The move will take place within 2 to 5 days. One bn and part of regtl hqs will be sent ahead and rest of regt will gradually move to the area. The mission in the new area will be to organize displaced persons and Allied soldiers who were German prisoners, and to maintain law and order.
- 1450 General Ferenbaugh left CP.
- 1500 General Macon came to CP.

27 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1510 General Macon informed Col Crabill that due to the fact that CCR is being taken out of the bridgehead, it will not be advisable to send a complete bn initially to the vic of Halberstadt. The Gen suggests that we send Lt Col Pack as the detachment comdr, an S-1, an S-4, part of a bn hqs, 1 rifle co, Cn Co, and AT Co minus the gun platoons. The mission will primarily be solving the problem of administration and supply.
- 1530 Col Crabill left CP to go to 3rd Bn where he will confer with the German Comdr of Zerbst.
- 1640 Col Crabill returned to CP. The Germans Comdr of Zerbst did not arrive at 3rd Bn for the meeting with Col Crabill. He had gone back to higher hqs to get permission to surrender Zerbst and had not returned. We have given them until 2000 for their answer.
- 1650 General Macon left CP.
- 2005 Major White came to CP and reported that the German Comdr of Zerbst has refused to surrender the city. His higher hqs would not grant him permission to surrender. He requested again that we take the wounded Germans but the request was refused. It is believed the Germans might withdraw from the city so that we will take over the city and take care of the wounded. The arty is going to work on the roads leading out of Zerbst tonight to discourage any movement of troops from the city.

28 April 1945

- 0830 Colonel Crabill left CP to go to Div.
- 0945 Lt Col Pack and Capt Bunch have gone to Div to get further information on the regt's future mission in the Halberstadt area.
- 1025 3rd Bn reports that they are still dickering with the Germans, trying to bring about the surrender of Zerbst. The German Comdr of Zerbst says his Comdg Gen is coming to Zerbst today.
- 1130 Col Crabill called from Div and directed Major Bagley to inform 2nd and 3rd Bns that the regt will attack Zerbst at 1500 this afternoon. 2nd Bn will go straight into the city on the right after passing through 1st Bn, and 3rd Bn, on the left, will go into the northern section of the city. Col Crabill will return to CP in 30 minutes with further details.
- 1135 Corps arty bns are putting their guns into positions from which they can support our attack this afternoon. A minimum of 6 or 7 bns of arty and possibly 11 bns will be in support of the attack.
- 1205 Col Crabill returned to CP. The regt will attack to seize Zerbst and be prepared to continue the attack to the east to link-up with the Russians, who are believed to be at least 25 kms east or NE of Zerbst.
- 1235 The arty will start firing in close support of our troops at 1455. Smoke will be mixed in with HE for the first 20 minutes. The arty is also going to fire on the German barracks and hqs which were observed by Capt Schommer and Lt MacFarlane in Zerbst yesterday.
- 1310 Col Crabill directed Lt Magill to have the I & R platoon prepared to go out tomorrow with the mission of contacting the Russians. It is believed there are strong en forces to the east who possibly have set up a defensive line between Zerbst and the Russians.
- 1335 2nd Bn attachments for the attack this afternoon are: 2nd plat, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn; 2nd plat, Co "A", 643rd TD Bn; 2 plats, Co "D", 736th Tk Bn. 3rd Bn attachments are: 3rd plat, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn; 3rd plat, Co "A", 643rd TD Bn; 1 plat, Co "D", 736th Tk Bn. 1st Bn will remain in present position in regtl reserve with their attachments which are: 1st plat, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn and 1st plat, Co "A", 643rd TD Bn.
- 1340 Co "G" has been released from TF Hawkins and will revert to regtl control.
- 1342 The regtl fwd CP will be located in Neiderlepte this afternoon. The Div radio, atd to the regt, will also be located in that town for the purpose of trying to establish radio contact with the Russians.

28 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1350 The beginning of the regt's mission in the Halberstadt area has been postponed 24 hours due to the operation this afternoon. No elements of the regt will move to the Halberstadt area before tomorrow.
- 1358 Col Grabill believes that the en in Zerbst will decide to surrender when the attack begins. He has instructed 2nd and 3rd Bns to cease firing and walk on into the city if the en puts up any number of white flags, but if the en fires any shots after white flags are displayed, the arty will be called on to blast them out.
- 1405 If Zerbst is taken today, it has been decided to send out 2 patrols tomorrow, each consisting of 1 plat of light tks, 1 platoon of inf and 1 squad of the I & R, to reestablish physical contact with the Russians.
- 1415 The Burgermeister and another civilian from Zerbst crossed to our lines and were brought to the CP to speak with Col Grabill. They requested that no arty fire be brought on the city as it has been thoroughly shot up, the population has been so harassed they cannot stand it any longer, and very few soldiers have remained there. The Burgermeister believes that we will meet no resistance and will be able to walk into the city. Col Grabill informed him that the military comdr in the city has had several opportunities to surrender and has not, but Gen Ferenbaugh is on his way to the CP and the Colonel will take his decision on the matter. The Colonel also informed the Burgermeister that he did not desire to make war on women and children but he is not going to risk his troops when he can protect them with arty fire.
- 1422 General Ferenbaugh arrived at CP.
- 1430 It has been decided to postpone the attack until 1600 while negotiations are being made with the Germans. Gen Ferenbaugh and Col Grabill left CP to take the 2 civilians to 3rd Bn CP. From there Capt Schommer and Lt MacFarlane will take the civilians on into Zerbst to try to negotiate a surrender with the military comdr of the city.
- 1445 General Macon arrived at CP.
- 1505 When 3rd Bn moves out towards Zerbst, TF Hawkins is going to move up on our left to protect that flank.
- 1525 General Macon called Colonel Grabill at 3rd Bn OP and instructed him to have the 2nd and 3rd Bns attack at 1600 with no arty preparations. If our troops are fired on, the arty will open up. It is believed the Germans will surrender without a fight.
- 1535 Gen Macon directed Lt Col Sharpe to send his tks ahead with inf following when he starts out for Zerbst and if they are fired upon to open up with the tks and arty.
- 1542 331st reports they have picked up 2 young boys who say that the German troops left Zerbst last night.
- 1545 3rd Bn reports that Capt Schommer and Lt MacFarlane have returned from Zerbst with the information that there is a German Major with approx 80 men under his command in Zerbst. He refused to surrender. However, the Burgermeister has given his word that if we fire no arty, the troops in Zerbst will not fire on our men as they approach the city. It has been decided to advance towards the city with no arty but if our troops are fired, 6 bns of arty will cut loose on the city. The tks will go out ahead of the inf.
- 1550 The fwd command group left CP to set up in Neiderlepte. Col Grabill will go to Neiderlepte from 3rd Bn OP at Toppel.
- 1610 2nd Bn reports that they crossed the LD on time and have met no fire.
- 1612 3rd Bn jumped off on time and have received no en fire.
- 1618 Lt Magill reports from his OP that the tks are almost at the outskirts of the city and have received no fire yet.
- 1629 Major Bagley reports the tks with 2nd Bn are on FL 1, about 800 yds from Zerbst and the inf is following 200 yds behind. They ran into some booby traps and swung around the area where they were located.
- 1630 Co "K" has reached FL 1.

28 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1632 Air OP reports several white flags flying in Zerbst.
 1637 Co "K" is now on PL 2.
 1655 Co "E" is on PL 3.
 1708 Co "K" has reached the center of Zerbst and has encountered no resistance.
 1725 General Macon left CP.
 1745 3rd Bn is on PL 5 with I Co on the left and K Co on the right. E Co is also on PL 5 and is swinging to the south to cut off the road leading SE from the city. F Co is past PL 5 and is at the eastern outskirts of the city. Not a shot has been fired by the enemy nor our troops.
 1910 2nd and 3rd Bns are buttoning up in Zerbst for the night. Approx 800 PWs were rounded up in the city. Our troops had 1 casualty from a booby trap.
 2035 CP will probably move into Zerbst tomorrow morning.

29 April 1945

0815 A fwd CP will be set up in Zerbst and a rear CP maintained in the present location at Walternienburg.
 0845 113th Cavalry Group, attached to 83rd Div, is continuing on east and SE from Zerbst to contact the Russians.
 0945 It has been decided not to set up a fwd CP in Zerbst as the city actually is not in the Div sector. CP will remain in present location.
 1050 3rd Bn is going to be pulled out of Zerbst and move back into Gutergluck. Hundreds of civilians, apparently fleeing from the Russians, are trying to come into Zerbst from the east. Our outposts are keeping them out of the city.
 1110 The first group going to the Halberstadt area left this morning. The group consisted of Lt Col Pack, Capt Bunch, Lt Wagner (S-4 of the group), Cn Co, A-T Co (- 3 gun plats), Hq Med Sec, and quartering parties from each bn.
 1135 Co "D", 736th Tk Bn, is being detached from the regiment, effective at 1200.
 1500 3rd Bn has closed back into Gutergluck. "I" Co will leave at 0800 tomorrow to go to the Halberstadt area.
 1545 General Ferenbaugh came to CP.
 1630 General Ferenbaugh left CP.
 1635 The cavalry has gone through Rosslau and is now about 20 km east of Zerbst. It is reported that hundreds of Germans are coming in to surrender and approx 1000 have been taken so far. The cavalry has requested trucks to transport PWs to the rear.
 1930 Hundreds of displaced persons have been coming to the rear all day trying to get back to the west side of the Elbe. Available transportation is being used to take them across the river.
 1950 The prisoner total for today is continuing to rise. It has been reported that along the cavalry's route of advance, large groups of German soldiers have been walking in to surrender and then wait by the road for someone to pick them up. In some instances the Germans have loaded their own trucks with troops and have driven in to surrender.

30 April 1945

0825 Co "I" closed out for the MG area at 0800. Co "K" is taking over "I" Co's positions.
 0915 The cavalry took off this morning to push on to the east and SE from Duhen, 21 km east of Zerbst.
 1245 The final total on PWs taken yesterday by the regt is approx 4000, including 2500 in hospitals. The cavalry took 4200 in its advance to Duhen.
 1310 The cavalry has reached Griebos, 9 km SE of Duhen.
 1430 It is reported that the cavalry is now at Wahlsdorf, 29 km east of Zerbst and are moving on to Cobbelsdorf, 2 km to the north, and Hülzig, 2 km to the east.

Unit Journal, 329th Infantry, (Cont'd):

30 April 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1435 Arty liaison plane reports Russian tks moving in an area a short distance east of PL Vodka which runs from N to S through Marzehns, Stracch, Neidersdorf, Dohien and Kleine Wittenberg. The Div radio atchd to the regt, is working with the cavalry, trying to contact the Russians.
- 1510 Lt Smith called from Div and reports that the cavalry contacted Russian forces at Apollensdorf at 1330. He will bring down more details later.
- 1800 It is now definitely known that contact has been established between 113th Cavalry Group and the Russian Army.
- 1915 Capt Penzenik, who has been interpreting for the Russian lieutenant trying to contact the Russians by radio, has sent a message to the effect that he is now at a Russian Army CP and will start back from there at 2000 with 10 Russian officers.
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