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 If George reverted to regt control early this morning and has closed into the present regt 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 22531h. It is believed we will make yet another move this afternoon, making it the third move today.

1530 CP closed out for new location.

1630 CP closed into new location at Beelum, 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 63d Div in present sector. 8th Arm Div will take Paderborn, go ahead on its mission and 63d will follow to clean up pockets of resistance and strong points.

1600 2nd BN is having some action in their area with an enemy pocket which was by-passed by the armor.

2230 The following attachments are now with the regt for future operations: Co A, 613rd 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.

1120 CP closed out for new location.

1140 CP closed into new location at WB 607557, vicinity Lohhude.

1345 CP will move again within the next few hours.

1500 1st BN has jumped off and is clearing the town of Neuhauen. 3rd BN is starting to move up through Zonnagran. Neuhauen was cleared by armor but the enemy infiltrated back into the town.

1600 CP closed out for new location.

1635 CP closed into new location at Sennelager, WB 67353h, making the third CP location for today.

2010 1st BN has taken 200 prisoners in Neuhauen and are sending them back.

4 April 1945

0940 Capt Bunch has left to make run for a new location for CP.

0945 2nd BN has been directed to move up to Bad Lipptringen, which is the tentative location for the regt's CP.

1000 1st and 3rd Bns are moving through woods north of Bad Lipptringen 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 1 & R Plat, working up by 3rd BN, has been directed to contact Well's outfit (BN Trp)

1050 3rd BN is in Schlanger. Atch'd to it are 1 Flat TD's, 1 Flat Tks, and 1 Flat BN 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 Snell.

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 Schlanger.

1340 General Mason and General Ferenbaugh arrived at CP.
329th Infantry Unit Journal (Cont’d).

4 April 1945 (Cont’d)

1355 3rd Bn has been working into the mountain pass in the Horror Wald (Forest) and are reported to be in as far as W 810618. They have crossed FL-8 and are nearly half way through the pass. 2nd Bn is on left of 3rd Bn and leading elements were last reported at W 800637. They are about 2/3 of the way through the forest in their particular sector.

1410 General Macan left CP.

1415 Lt. Magill has just returned from 3rd Bn and says that the report at 1355 on 3rd Bn’s position is wrong. The location of K Co is W 787598 just at the edge of the woods. L Co is on their flank and extending into Kohlstadt. There are some enemy tanks on the road in front of K Co.

1515 3rd Bn reports there are 2 enemy tanks 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 Macan came to CP. He wants 2nd, and 3rd Bns to try to get on objectives 3 and 4 tonight.

1605 General Macan left CP.

1620 General Ferberbach left CP.

1630 2nd Bn is within approximately 1 km of objective No. 1.

2025 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, W 831657 and they are clearing 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. Runch has left for Horn to make a run for a new CP.

0835 Col. Crabill and Maj. Bagley have left for Horn to see how 2nd Bn is progressing.

0905 3rd Bn is now at Veldrome.

0930 3rd Bn reports that elements of Co I possibly have reached Horn, coming from the southwest.

0935 General Ferberbach 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 Ferberbach 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.

1015 CP closed into new location at Horn, W 831657.

1105 2nd Bn is moving out towards Wobbel, which will be the next Regt’s CP location. 3rd Bn is moving towards Vinesbeck, following TF Richie.

1110 Col. Crabill and Maj. Bagley have returned to CP.

1130 Capt. Runch has gone out on run for a new CP location.

1225 When 3rd Bn reaches Vinesbeck 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 Vinesbeck 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. Runch 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. Runch to set up the CP in Belle. CP will move as soon as 1st Bn clears through Horn on the road to Vinesbeck.

1335 1st Bn is now moving up through Horn towards Vinesbeck. CP will move to Belle within a short time.

1510 CP closed out for new location.

1535 CP closed into new location at Belle, W 910675. CP will possibly move again this afternoon.

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 Visnbeck. 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 Lotte, which is approximately 3km east of Steinheim. 1st Bn is following TF Richie and are about 1 mile east of Steinheim.
1650 General Macon left CP.
1755 The task force in front of 2nd Bn has met considerable resistance at Scheider, which is 1km 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 FW's taken today.

6 April 1945

0820 Capt Bunch left for a recce 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 Coak 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 Schwakenberg. 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 BadPyrmont, about 8km north east of Scheider.
1136 Col Crabill estimates that 3rd Bn will be at the Weser River by 1100.
1200 Div has allotted the reg the following equipment for crossing the river: 3h assault boats; 1 power pontons for ferrying; 1 Inf. support raft; and 1 class 10 bridge.
1230 Capt Bunch has gone out on a recce for a new CP.
1305 3rd Bn reports that their forward elements have reached the Weser River at Gromhe, W6 160616 11 km northeast of Bad-Pyrmont.
1314 1st Bn has reached a point about 3 1/2km of Schwakenberg. 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 Judge. 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.
1430 CP closed into new location at Judge, 060758.
1510 Capt Bunch has gone on a recce for a new CP.
1525 It has been confirmed that 3rd Bn crossed the river at Gromhe, swung to the right and moved southeast to Halle, 257767, a distance of 1km 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 0550. 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 platoon reports that they are in Ratsiek, 1km northeast of Elbrinken and are cleaning up the town.

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329th Infantry Unit Journal (Cont'd)

6 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1835 Lt Magill came to CP from 1st Bn sector and reported that I & R Platoon 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 Wolderfeld, 0909.

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 Lune.

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 reached Vahlbruck, 1 1/2 Km NE of Wolderfeld, and is still there this morning; F and G Co's are sitting on the east side of the river 3 Km east of Hahnen, 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 Hahnen, K Co is in Hagen and Tuchfeld, and 3rd Bn CP is in Halle.

0830 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 Vahlbruck.

1000 One ferry is now working at Hahnen. The Engs are working on the other ferry at Hahnen and one further south on the river.

1020 322nd FA Bn is going to cross the river on the bridge at Grohne. 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 CP will cross the river early this afternoon.

1215 Capt Bunch left the CP to make a run for a new CP location. The CP will move to the town of SCAROLDENDORF, 15 Km due east of Ottenstein.

1300 CP closed out for new location.

1330 CP closed into new location at Eschershausen, 310717, 1 Km south of Scharoldendorf. GP did not move into Scharoldendorf because the town was too crowded with the other troops.

1415 Lt Magill came in to the CP and reports that the I & R Platoon cleared Gruenenplan a few hours ago. They were whacking ahead of the 3rd Bn.

1445 The RR 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.

1545 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.

1615 3rd Bn has gone through Medieval and is well on its way to the Leine River, which is about 3 Km east of medieval 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 Medieval yesterday and moved back across the Leine River to Alfeld, 1 1/2 Km north of Medieval where there supposedly is a well trained SS regiment.

2005 Regt CP will move to the East through the mountain pass early tomorrow morning.

2300 1200 prisoners were taken today.

8 April 1945

0615 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 Fried, just on the east side of the Leine, and are moving on ahead.

1000 1st Bn reports that they have reached the Weser River.

1030 CP will move to the east side of the river and set up a CP on the west side of the river.

1100 100 prisoners were taken today.
8 April 1945 (Cont'd)

0955 Regt'1 CP will move to Delligosen 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 Delligosen, 420737, 10 Km east of Eschershausen.

1117 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 Lambpringe, 7 Km NE of KL Frieden. Civilians have reported that there are 500 SS troops in Lambpringe.

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

1140 Major Egley came to CP and reports that 2nd Bn is not moving very fast although there apparently is nothing holding them up. We have 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 Lambpringe.

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

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

1235 3rd Bn has gone through Lambpringe and it is believed that elements of the Bn are swinging back to the NW to clear the town of Graeste, about 2 Km from Lambpringe.

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.

1520 CP closed in to new location at Alfeld, 435785.

1610 2nd Bn is now on their objective on a line running through Wirsberg, Grafselde, Schemnitz, and Arany. 1st Bn is moving to Alfeld.

1930 2nd Bn is in the same position as at 1610. 3rd Bn is still in Graeste and Lambpringe. 83rd Ron 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.

2 April 1945

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

1300 The regt will "sit tight" until Wednesday morning, 11 April 145. At that time the regt will resume the offensive. GM 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 Lambpringe, 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.

1030 1st Bn has 5 PW's.

1030 CP closed out for new location.

1100 CP closed in to new location at Bormann, 655782, 2 Km SE of Lambpringe. 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
1400 The P.W.'s report 16 more with a panzer force along the railroad. The 1st Bn forward elements are at the roadblock west of Langelsheim.
1415 3rd Bn reports that the roadblock, which has been holding them up northeast of Langelsheim, has been reduced. The 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 785714 7 km east of Hahnenau.
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 Schlevecce, 9270, 4 km east of Oker. 2nd Bn is in Harlingrod, 9171. All Bns are buttoning up for the night. Tomorrow morning, 3rd Bn will continue their advance from Viernegnburg 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 Magtöl 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 run for a new CP location.
0930 The Bns jumped off on time and are reported to be making good progress against light resistance.
1015 Col. Crabill, Major Bagley have gone forward.
1100 CP closed out for new location.
1125 CP closed into new location at Abbenrode, 9974, 10 km north east of Oker, after a short stop over in Viernegnburg.
1150 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 Weckenstedt, WD 0671, 6 km south east of Abbenrode.
1425 3rd Bn has reached Atenstedt, 7 km north west of Halberstadt and 2nd Bn is at Dersberg, 7 km 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, 4 km north east of Weckenstedt.
1630 2nd Bn has reached Halberstadt and 3rd Bn is advancing to the east, north of the city. Since 1117 hours yesterday, forward elements of the regt have driven 11 km (on a straight line) to the east.
1705 CP closed out for new location.
1830 CP closed into new location at Halberstadt, WD 2871, 16 km east of Langlen, after several delays enroute.
2015 Part of 2nd Bn is now in Viernegnburg, 7 km east of Halberstadt, and the remainder of the Bn is in Harseleben, 3 km north east of Halberstadt. 3rd Bn is in Gr. Quenstedt, 3 km north east of Halberstadt, and is advancing on towards the city of Groningen, 7 km east of the Bns present position. It is believed that 3rd Bn will possibly reach Kroppenstedt, 6 km 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 Haterborn, 5 km north west of Halberstadt.
2135 The objective for tomorrow's attack is to reach the Elbe River.
2300 178 prisoners were taken today and approx. 5000 were overrun in Hosp.
12 April 1945

0835 Capt. Bunch has left to make run for a new OP.
1015 CP closed out for new location.
1215 CP closed into new location at Biber, 6982, 35 kms east of Halberstadt.
1225 3rd Bn is now reported to be at Gnadau, 7 kms west of the Elbe River. 2nd Bn has cleared Ategendorf 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, 306th 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 650835 appears to be still intact. Col. Crabill has directed 3rd Bn to attempt to secure the bridge and cross the river.
1250 2nd Bn reports that Eickendorf has been cleared and leading elements are now in Gt. Muhlingen.
1300 1st Bn has been directed to move up to Gnadau behind 3rd Bn. 1st Bn may cross the Elbe River in assault boats, tonight if 3rd Bn does not secure the bridge.
1310 The engrs are going to move the assault boats and bridging materials up to Gnadau.
1350 2nd Bn is now in Gt. 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 Gt. 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 Gt. Muhlingen which will be the next OP location.
1620 2nd Bn has reached Torinitz, 1 km south west of Barby.
1710 CP closed out for new location.
1745 CP closed into new location at Gt. Muhlingen 7579, 6 km south east of Biber.
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.
2135 Lt. Col. Coble, Capt. Brand, and 1st Bn Co Comdrs have gone to run 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 1355 (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.
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 has been 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 Bürgermeister of Barby and he reports that there are no enemy troops now in the town. The Bürgermeister 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. Münningen.

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, 8682.

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 OP from CP.

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. It is estimated that the bridge will be completed at about 0400 tomorrow morning. The arty will have priority use of the bridge.

1815 1st and 2nd Bns are buttoning up for the night. They report several enemy tanks to their front.

2030 188 prisoners were taken today.
11 April 1945

0805 A series of enemy counter-attacks were made against our forces across the river last night but were broken up by heavy artillery fire. The counter-attacks consisted of infantry and about 7 tanks, 2 of which were knocked out. The 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 Bigley returned to CP from the bridge and reports that the bridge has been repaired and the light tanks are now moving across. 2nd Arm 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 Walthemmenburg. 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 troops 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 32nd 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 bridgehead 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. OCR of 2nd Armd under 83rd 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 Bigley left CP to go forward. CP will probably move later 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. Div has advanced into the woods east of Walthemmenburg 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 Wadgluck, 3km northeast of Walthemmenburg.
15 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1220 have been meeting considerably heavy resistance. 3rd Bn is clearing up at Gaterslack where resistance has been strong also.
1440 Of closed out for new location.
1515 Of & F Companies have cleaned up Gaterslack and L Co is south of the town. 1st Bn is nearly through the woods. GOR is reported to be in Gehrdn and 331st Inf has taken Hohnlepte.
1550 It has been reported that Lt Col Speedale, 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 Waltermienburg and are now reported to be in Nahe, 30s west of Zerbst. 331st Inf is still in Hohenlepte, about 3km 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, GOR of 2nd Arm Div, on our left flank, forced to withdraw to the east of Gehrdn and send them south to Gaterslack, where the main force of the counter-attack was encountered. 3rd Bn contained the counter-attack in their part of Gaterslack and assisted GOR in eliminating the enemy penetration in their section of the town.
0910 3 enemy tanks 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 attacked 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. Gen Grabill 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 Grabill that the Div will probably not order the regt to attack this morning.
1100 Col Grabill believes Zerbst can be taken with a Bn of infantry and a platoon of tanks as PWh's report there is nothing in the town now.
1250 Plans for the continuation of the offensive have been changed and the Regt has 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 atchment 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 Benson, 2nd BN ExO, 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 Served Co and other units in the town. The ExO is going to the north to try to contact the enemy. Capt Dust 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.
Nothing resulted during last night from the rumor that 500 Germans were going to cross the Elbe with the mission of destroying our bridge.

1st Bn, 330th Inf, closed into Walternienburg at 0500 this morning.

Co "G", 330th Inf, has relieved our Co "G" in Darby. Co "G" has rejoined the 2nd Bn.

Everything has been very quiet today; the only activity being our artillery firing on enemy movement and other targets.

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.

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.

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.

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 platoon, Co "B", 736th Tk Bn, which has been with 1st Bn, 330th Inf, is remaining with the 329th Inf.

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.

320th Inf regt will relieve OCR on our left today. This will release our 2nd Bn which will take up a reserve position. 9th Co will again be taken from 2nd Bn and attached to OCR, which is taking one company from 320th, 329th and 330th.

More supporting artillery has arrived in the area today. It is now possible to call for a 9 bn T02.

The regt1 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.

2nd platoon, Co "B", 736th Tk Bn, and 3rd platoon, Co "B", 613rd TD Bn, were taken from the regt today.

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 Arm Div and will move into the Div sector this afternoon.

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.

Lt Gen Simpson, Major Gen McLean, and Major Gen Macon arrived at the CP.

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.

Lt Gen Simpson, Major Gen McLean, and Major Gen Macon left the CP.

330th Inf has closed into its new assembly area vic of Walternienburg. The regt1 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 "K" relieved Co "K" today and Co "N" 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 M4s; 1 section 81 mm mortars; 1 ren 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.

1615 The Russian lieutenant, Theo Frisjaschnik, has been trying to establish 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

0915 Artillery 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.

1115 The radio attempting to contact the Russians has received an answer to their calls. The answer was: "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 hq's.

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.
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.

No answer to our request as to the location of the Russians has yet been received from them.

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.

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 LIX 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.

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**

0815 Pts 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 Pts 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 Pts 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 We regret we will not be able 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 their 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 coadr answered our calls, asked for unit identification, and said he would pass the information back to higher rgs 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 VCs and call back but no answer has been received from them.

1540 Col Crabill left OP to go to I & R OP.

1625 General Macon came to OP.

1640 General Macon left OP.

1725 Col Crabill returned to OP.

1810 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 Treuenbriesten, approx 55 km NE of Zerbst. Other civilian reports are that the Russians have reached Wiesen, 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 try again this evening.

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 reoccupy the positions, apparently not knowing that American troops were there. A short fight followed, 20+ ENs were taken, then the 331st dropped back to their former positions.

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.

1615 No results have been obtained today from our attempt 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 commanders 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.
Div notified us that it has been officially reported that the 69th Inf Div last night linked up with the Russians to our south.

Arty liaison plane has reported that several white flags are flying in Zerbst. Col Crabill has directed the T & R platoon to investigate the possibility that the Germans have withdrawn from the city.

Psychological warfare team is going to broadcast from the I & R sector this afternoon.

Gen Mason came to CP. He is going to the bns to decorate members of the regiment.

Gen Mason and Col Crabill left CP to go to the bns.

Col Crabill returned to CP.

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 Gen Koehler. The letter requested that we take 6,000 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 Mason's decision on it.

It has been reported that the 102nd Div has contact with the Russians by patrol only.

Major Callaghan returned to CP. The letter from Lt Gen Koehler was taken to XIX Corps and Maj Gen McClean in turn called Ninth Army. It was decided to refuse the German request to evacuate the 6,000 wounded and 500 women. The answer will be conveyed to the Germans at a meeting tomorrow morning.

It has been reported that a large number of German soldiers want to surrender to 330th Inf.

Attempts to contact the Russians by radio were continued today but no answer was received to our calls.

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 were very instrumental in bringing the surrender of these prisoners.

The surrender of 896 German soldiers and lc 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.

Col Crabill is going to decorate 19 men of the regiment at 1000.

3rd Bn reports that Capt Schumm and Lt MacFarlane have gone into Zerbst to give our answer to the Germans' request for evacuation of their wounded.

Lt MacFarlane came to CP. He told the German Condr 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 5000 troops in and around the city. The German Condr will come to our lines at 1600 with his answer. Col Crabill will be present to meet him.

General Perenbaugh came to CP.

General Perenbaugh 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 regt 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.

General Perenbaugh left CP.

General Mason came to CP.

27 April 1945
General Macon informed Col Crabill that due to the fact that COR 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 cmdr, an S-1, an S-I, part of a bn sgs, 1 rlg, Co C, and AT Co minus the gun platoons. The mission will primarily be solving the problem of administration and supply.

Col Crabill left CP to go to 3rd Bn where he will confer with the German Cnd of Zerbst.

Col Crabill returned to CP. The Germans Cndr of Zerbst did not arrive at 3rd Bn for the meeting with Col Crabill. He had gone back to higher gns to get permission to surrender Zerbst and had not returned. We have given them until 2000 for their answer.

General Macon left CP.

Major White came to CP and reported that the German Cndr of Zerbst has refused to surrender the city. His higher gns 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

Colonel Crabill left CP to go to Div.

Lt Col Pack and Capt Binch have gone to Div to get further information on the regt's future mission in the Halberstadt area.

3rd Bn reports that they are still dickering with the Germans, trying to bring about the surrender of Zerbst. The German Cndr of Zerbst says his Gen is coming to Zerbst today.

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.

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.

Col Crabill returned to CP. The regt will attack to seize Zerbst and be prepared to continue the attack to the east to line up with the Russians, who are believed to be at least 25 kms east or NE of Zerbst.

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 hgs which were observed by Capt Schommer and Lt MacFarlane in Zerbst yesterday.

Col Crabill directed Lt Magill to have the 1 & 2 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.

2nd Bn attachments for the attack this afternoon are: 2nd platoon, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn; 2nd platoon, Co "B", 1st TD Bn; 2 platoon, Co "D", 736th Tk Bn. 3rd Bn attachments are: 3rd platoon, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn; 3rd platoon, Co "A", 616th TD Bn; 1 platoon, Co "D", 736th Tk Bn. 1st Bn will remain in present position in regt reserve with their attachments which are: 1st platoon, Co "A", 736th Tk Bn and 1st platoon, Co "A", 616th TD Bn.

Co "G" has been released from TF Hawkins and will revert to regt control.

The regt ffd CP will be located in Neiderlating this afternoon. The Div radio, attached to the regt, will also be located in that town for the purpose of trying to establish radio contact with the Russians.
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.

Col Crabill 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.

If Zerbst is taken today, it has been decided to send out 2 patrols tomorrow, each consisting of 1 pl of light tks, 1 platoon of inf and 1 squad of the I & R, to reestablish physical contact with the Russians.

The Burgermeister and another civilian from Zerbst crossed to our lines and were brought to the CP to speak with Col Crabill. They requested that no arty be brought onto 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 Crabill informed him that the military cmdr in the city has had several opportunities to surrender and has not, but Gen Barenbaugh 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.

General Barenbaugh arrived at CP.

It has been decided to postpone the attack until 1600 while negotiations are being made with the Germans. Gen Barenbaugh and Col Crabill left CP to take the 2 civilians to 3rd Bn CP. From there Capt Schonmer and Lt MacFarlane will take the civilians on into Zerbst to try to negotiate a surrender with the military cmdr of the city.

General Mason arrived at CP.

When 3rd Bn moves out towards Zerbst, TF Hawkins is going to move up on our left to protect that flanks.

General Mason called Colonel Crabill 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.

Gen Mason 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.

331st reports they have picked up 2 young boys who say that the German troops left Zerbst last night.

3rd Bn reports that Capt Schonmer 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.

The fwd command group left CP to set up in Neiderlohe. Col Crabill will go to Neiderlohe from 3rd Bn OP at Toppel.

2nd Bn reports that they crossed the LD on time and have met no fire.

3rd Bn jumped off on time and have received no en fire.

Lt Magill reports from his OP that the tks are almost at the outskirt of the city and have received no fire yet.

Major Bagley reports the tks with 3rd 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.

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 Mason left CP.
1745 3rd Bn is on PL 5 with I Co on the left and K Co on the right. F Co is also on PL 5 and is swinging to the south to cut off the road leading SE from the city. E 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 POWs 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.
1059 3rd Bn is going to be pulled out of Zerbst and move back into Guterglück. 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 (3-4 of the group), Co A, H T Co (-3 gun platoons), Hq Med Sec, and quartering parties from each bn.
1135 Co "D", 736th Tn Bn, is being detached from the regiment, effective at 1200.
1500 3rd Bn has closed back into Guterglück. "I" Co will leave at 0800 tomorrow to go to the Halberstadt area.
1515 General Ferenbaugh came to CP.
1645 General Ferenbaugh left CP.
1655 The cavalry has gone through Rossau 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 POWs 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 "H" closed out for the MG area at 0800. Co "K" is taking over "H" Co's positions.
0915 The cavalry took off this morning to push on to the east and SE from Duhnen, 21 km east of Zerbst.
1245 The final total on POWs taken yesterday by the regt is approx 4000, including 2500 in hospitals. The cavalry took 14200 in its advance to Duhnen.
1310 The cavalry has reached Griebn, 9 km SE of Duhnen.
1430 It is reported that the cavalry is now at Wahlsdorf, 29 km east of Zerbst and are moving on to Gobbelsdorf, 2 km to the north, and Hilzig, 2 km to the east.
Unit Journal, 329th Infantry, (Cont'd):

30 April 1945 (Cont'd)

1435 Arty liaison plane reports Russian tanks moving in an area a short distance east of FL Vodka which runs from N to S through Marshehn, Strazch, Neidersdorf, Dahlen 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 Renzenik, 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.