

## LISTING OF INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC FOR MARCH 1945

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
		Period 1 Mar to 16 Mar 1945 was spent in resting of troops, drawing personnel reinforcements, and vehicle replacements. Training in night patrols and gunnery and platoon problems were also stressed during this period.
1	170745	The battalion moved from Cites de Charbonnages after having been alerted two days prior, placing the Battalion on six (6) hour alert. Route of march: Cites de Charbonnages, Faulquemont, Metz, Theonville, Grobenmacher, Baumholder.
	180200	Battalion closed in assembly area at Baumholder; refueling, Cos meeting.
2	180600	Left assembly area headed east on route shown on overlay. Held by Force Norton, progress slow. After leaving assembly area at Baumholder, Combat Command was limited to one route. Continuous urging of point and reconnaissance.
3	180900	Battalion leaves over trail and across country toward Ronnenberg.
4	180930	PWs start surrendering to tanks from there on, becomes a problem as personnel to take care of prisoners is limited.
5	180945	Route from assembly area to town of Patersbach very slow because of road and trail factor.
6	181000	From town of Patersbach Battalion turned northeast across bridge which was reported in by CO and relayed to CC-B.
7	181100	PW problem acute during period. Over 250 prisoners counted by first unit of main body and many others collected along column.
8	181830	Battalion left assembly area at Horschbach headed southeast.
9	181900	50 PWs being sent back by C/714.
10	181935	Mortar Platoon ordered to take care of PWs.
11	181835	Many more PWs taken for over one mile along road. Some small arms fire, estimated at 250 rounds.
12	181840	C/714 ordered to slow down.
1	191150	CO CC-B to meet CO/714 at coordinates 099989.
2	191155	CO CC-B arrives at Force Field, discussion between group lasts until 1255.
3	191400	In assembly area at above coordinates.
4	191400	CO 12 AD calls CO CC-B, asks situation and encourages CO CC-B to move Field east towards objective.
5	191520	CO CC-B calls CO/714 that he is sending his S-3 with instructions.
6	191600	Company commanders meeting.
7	191650	Left area.
8	191745	Arrived at Ramsen
9	191800	Column in front of us going into firing positions; deployed off road.
10	192030	Arrived at Imsweiler at 2030, following column of 302 Inf Combat Team after passing CC-R. Loc. CC-R Imsweiler.

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11	192040	Message to CO from CO CC-B: stop where you are, wait on orders, there has been a change.
12	192145	Cos meeting held south of Imsweiler, change of objective.
13	192145	Battalion moves out.
14	192200	Column halted behind CC team.
15	192300	Reconnaissance discloses that road ahead is impassable, trucks of Combat Command 302 team blocking roads and turn off.
16	192400	Vehicles turned around. Artillery fire being received, believed to be 88. Reconnaissance does not disclose location of weapons, so that fire can be brought to bear on them. Infantry team out to take care of guns.
1	200100	One C/56 Infantry halftrack turned over, towed one 57 MM gun (one casualty) (roads very dusty, night march fast).
2	200630	In assembly area north of Gersheim; refueling, servicing, some small arms fire in area.
3	2000832	C/714 to CO: we are proceeding with caution as civilians seem to be pulling out.
4	200834	CO to C/714: push ahead, we have to make time.
5	200815	Norton's Force encounters roadblock.
6	200820	Norton reconnoiters for by-pass.
7	200830	Battalion cautioned in passing through Kittsbald as many enemy seen entering the town.
8	200835	CO to C/714: Is there any signs of activity?
9	200837	C/714 to CO: No, but there is a bad town (Otterburg) ahead; there is a left turn which will slow the force down. We are almost through.
10	200840	Battalion halted for ten minutes.
11	200850	CO cautions C/714 not to take off too fast as terrain is slowing down force and column will be spread out.
12	200900	About 250 PWs marched down road. Collection by Reconnaissance Platoon Leader underway.
13	200915	Norton in Enkenbach, held up by 88 on hill.
14	200915	C/714 to CO: am tying into the end of friendly column; will let you know the results of my reconnaissance.
15	201045	Battalion pulled off road into area just east of Enkenbach. Norton's force involved in fight, four tanks of B/714 knocked out. Casualties not ascertained as yet, fire consists of AA and AT fire. AA fire used against ground troops.
16	201100	Norton's force moves artillery into position to bring fire to bear on gun positions; over 30 PWs start to rear.

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17	201030	Neukirchen: Battalion put in area east of town to clear road. Battalion starts reconnaissance of routes to south and west to avoid fight and get on with mission.
18	201100	Friendly air support arrives. AA fire on planes is intense.
19	201110	S-3 reports to C/56 that he has some vehicles stuck and that he should send maintenance vehicle with winch to release them.
20	201115	AA against personnel becomes more intense, no reported casualties.
21	201135	Report as of 1135, from Norton to CO CC-B: have laid artillery fire on suspected positions of AA and AT guns but AA fire continues, tense when friendly planes fly over our area. Have sent 15 PWs to rear but enemy strength of positions continues.
22	201140	Battalion in assembly area to rear of Norton's force, waiting for results of reconnaissance to southwest.
23	201140	CC-B to CO: report to your halftrack immediately.
24	201151	General Ennis at Battalion CO track with Battalion CO.
25	201151	CO calls CC-B: asks for CO CC-B.
26	201152	CO gives location of General Ennis to Colonel Bromley.
27	201200	Battalion pulling into assembly area for refueling and servicing water and food to right of road just outside Eisenberg.
28	201700	Company commanders meeting in assembly area.
29	201835	Liaison Officer with following message: Go at once to town of Freinsheim. Mounted boys having trouble.
30	202000	A/714, advance guard moves out
31	202100	Area cleared at 2100; road out of area bad and town to be passed.
32	202100	Point reports that a column is using the super-highway.
33	202102	Point reveals that column is Norton's Force.
34	202110	CO tells point to increase speed to 8 MPH.
35	202210	A/714 position given to artillery approaching Freinsheim.
36	202215	Message from Reconnaissance troop: they had just come out of Freinsheim and had encountered lots of bazooka fire.
37	202230	92/Reconnaissance Leader meets column at next town and passes on information that enemy is in town with bazookas. He has one man wounded and needing medical attention.
38	202233	Bart of 92 <sup>nd</sup> goes forward with Major Crawford to see Major Field with information on Freinsheim.
39	202236	Repeated attempts made to contact CC-B by Fr & CO with no results.
40	202345	Battalion moves out. Point encounters difficulty on road through Freinsheim.

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41	202350	Battalion turns around in town as underpass is too low for tanks.
1	210600	Battalion enters Kercheim, Germany. CP set up in railroad station.
2	210700	Company commanders meeting. D/714 sent on patrol to Frenkenthal.
3	211000	Patrol reports all towns cleared.
4	211030	Battalion prepares to move out, C/56 and D/714 to go to Frenkenthal and await arrival of Battalion which is to be proceed to West Mannerheim and hold until relieved by Inf. Div. and then to turn south.
5	211100	Change of orders received. Battalion to go south to Speyer on Rhine; Battalion under tactical control of 92 <sup>nd</sup> .
6	211145	Battalion moves out moving south and east; roads to be used: any leading in that direction.
7	211200	Point cautious about woods, sees Jerries in woods, be on alert. Message released to all stations.
8	211201	Columns bombed and strafed south of Kraspez by three ME 109s.
9	211200	Column held up on road by guide from 92 <sup>nd</sup> Reconnaissance who reported situation in town ahead to Battalion CO. (Road at this time is also being used by Combat Team of 80 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div.)
10	211340	Many PWs going to rear (150); all seem to be French and Italian.
11	211400	Enemy air activity continues.
12	211412	Attack on town ahead being planned. "A" to attack town from left and "C" to go in from front.
13	211400	French and Italian PWs report 10 enemy tanks in Swortyangalden and many 88s. Troops in town.
14	211530	Parsons to put smokescreen in front of village of Ruskeim. Jenks to screen right flank from observation.
15	211540	Clayton called for by CO.
16	211540	Jenks observed a tank going into position in front of town of Ruskeim.
17	211544	Flank platoon of C started into town of Ruskeim, progress slow because of ditch.
18	211630	Battalion ordered to move on into town and proceed south through it.
19	211635	Battalion left Ruskeim headed south to Mutterstadt; enemy roadblocks reported in Mutterstadt. Reconnaissance Platoon sent out ahead, they were fired upon when within 300 yards of town and pinned down. A/714 point for Battalion moves in with C/56. C/56 to hold town open as Battalion moves through then tail Battalion AG and 80 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Artillery and Mortar to lay preparations of 15 minutes on town.
20	211700	Enemy artillery active, some mortar fire.
21	211800	C/56 enters town, encounters roadblock and starts to dismantle it.

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1	220600	Battalion enters Mutterstadt. Attack south toward objective planned, 92 <sup>nd</sup> supported by one platoon tanks from A/714.
2	220710	Six tanks reported at railroad south of town.
3	220745	AT fire being received plus heavy artillery.
4	220800	CP established in Mutterstadt. C/714 detached to C-B control.
1	230600	Company commander meeting at 0600: order of march: C plus D/56 mounted, A plus rest of D/56 mounted, Hq Co plus D/714. 56 Inf reports AT positions have been wiped out. Enemy has withdrawn from towns that were previously objectives.
2	230830	Head of column moves out.
3	230833	Rest of column moves out.
4	230845	Message for Clayton: slow down, you are going too fast.
5	230900	Battalion moving south. Major Boone calls AG to be prepared to smoke flanks. Route: main road south then to side road southwest. Battalion moving right along at 0918.
6	230918	Position sent to CC-B, advance elements 520852.
7	230920	Reconnaissance moving to town on west to reconnoiter. Left flank still exposed.
8	230930	Air reports bridge still intact at Speyer and one further down creek still in.
9	230935	Speyer five Km south. Our point about 21.5 Km in front of us. Our force to occupy town changed. 92 <sup>nd</sup> will occupy town.
10	230940	No anti-tank fire received as yet.
11	230945	Point received anti-tank fire at edge of town. Enemy doughs at left of point taken under fire. Doughs dismounted and sent ahead, tanks to follow doughs. Barrage balloons still up over Speyer.
12	231000	Bridge at Speyer blown up. Small arms fire received.
13	231300	Clayton reports 88 fire coming down street. Small arms fire heavy, C/56 out front and has prisoners.
14	231320	CO reports AT fire near him. A/714 held up by same guns.
15	231330	Progress very slow, doughs receiving heavy sniper fire.
16	231335	C/56 reports that they will have to take another route into town as they are zeroed in.
17	231336	C/56 and C/714 have casualties, send medical detachment forward.
18	231340	CO calls for Taylor to set up PW enclosure at his present location.
19	231345	CO calls CC-B.
20	231350	CO calls for medics again.
21	231400	From Norton: We are entering town now.

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22	231402	Answer: Field is attempting to swing doughs through suburbs of town to outflank gun.
23	231405	Gordon reports a regiment of infantry and two tanks in Hanhoffen. Norton is in edge of city, don't know how far in they are.
24	231407	AT gun to right front, AT gun to left front.
25	231410	Clayton calls for artillery fire on AT guns.
26	231430	Progress still slow. Two infantry companies working toward AT gun on left. Artillery fired at it and adjustments being made.
27	231524	Kresge A/714 tanks enter town shooting, prisoners coming out. Doughs are still with tanks.
28	231505	CO Field transmits message that tanks are to dash across open field and seize north end of town. Pocket of enemy in ditch has been cleared. CO CC-B urges force on.
29	231525	A/714 overrunning guns, large caliber.
30	231527	B/56 at Foundry.
31	231537	C/714 held up by CO for a while until situation clears.
32	231545	A/714 has 11 tanks, have just crossed railroad tracks.
33	231547	CO wants C/56 to swing across main road to AT gun.
34	231548	CO A/714 thinks AT gun is knocked out.
35	231605	A/714 across main road and proceeding down it. C/56 not too well organized. C/714 with other doughs to follow into town. D/714 to follow AGs into town.
36	231630	Battalion less Hq Co moves into Speyer. Company commanders meeting at filling station. Short pause for regrouping.
37	231715	Major Boone reports position of our force as near center of town to Norton's force.
38	231805	Force encounters a roadblock in town, some casualties.
1	240500	Roadblock reported down by infantry. Civilians have cleared it.