

# 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion After Action Reports

November-December 1944

January 1945

February 1945

March 1945

April 1945

May 1945

June 1945

July 1945

August 1945

September- October 1945

DOCUMENTS RELATED to 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION, 12<sup>TH</sup> ARMORED DIVISION, NOV 1944 – OCT 1945

Documents donated to the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Memorial Museum from Earl Norris in October 2005.

#### **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS DURING PERIOD NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 1944**

During the period 15 November 1944 to 28 November 1944, the Battalion assembled and reorganized in the vicinity of Auffay, France. Many companies had personnel on LSTs that arrived during this period. The Battalion completely closed in the vicinity of Auffay, France on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Nov 1944. Normal duties and training were performed during this period. One death occurred due to accidental discharge of a .45 caliber submachine gun (noted in margin: C Company of the 714<sup>th</sup>).

At 1100 28 Nov 44, a warning order was received from Combat Command B for movement of the battalion to the vicinity of Lunneville, France. At 1300 28 Nov 44, the Battalion Commander issued the warning order to all officers of the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion for movement on 29 Nov 44. At 1800 28 Nov 44, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Field Order Number 1 was received, ordering movement to the vicinity of Lunneville, France. At 2200 28 Nov 44, the Field Order was issued to all companies for movement by road.

The battalion left the vicinity of Auffay, France at 1415 29 Nov 44 for the vicinity of Lunneville, France, arriving at Soissons, France at 0130 30 Nov 44 for refueling and resting of troops, traveling a distance of 117 miles.

The battalion departed from Soissons, France for the vicinity of Lunneville, France at 1400 29 Nov, arriving in bivouac area in the vicinity of Lamont, France at 2330 30 Nov 44, traveling a distance of 89 miles. Departed vicinity of Lamont, France enroute of vicinity of Lunneville, France, 1600 1 Dec 44. Arrived at Baccarat, France at 0543 2 Dec 44. Distance traveled for the entire trip 315 miles. No unusual incidents occurred during the march.

During the period 2 Dec to 6 Dec 44 battalion made preparations to complete maintenance, ammunition loads and stowage of vehicles. Tentative plans were formulated for organization of Tank-Infantry Combat Teams. On 4 Dec 44, the battalion organized in to Force, Power, consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 714, B Company 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, and one platoon Company B 119<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. At 1030 4 Dec 44, the Battalion Commander met with company commanders and separate platoon leaders to discuss plans for coordination, communications and available materiel.

At 0505 6 Dec 44, the Force left Baccarat, France enroute to Hirschland, France, arriving there at 0852 6 Dec 44.

At 0900 7 Dec 44, the Force was alerted for movement to the vicinity of Rehling, France. The Force departed from Hirschland, France at 1315, arriving at Dehlingen, France at 1730, traveling a total distance of 14 miles. No unusual incidents during the course of the march.

During the period 7 Dec to 11 Dec 44, daily reconnaissance was made of front line activities by the Battalion Commander and Staff and Company commanders.

At 1423 1 Dec 44 the Battalion crossed IP enroute to Lunneville, France. IP 3 miles east of Lunneville. At 2400 arrived at release point, Lunneville, France. Battalion march column reorganized and marched at 0310 2 Dec 44 to Baccarat Barracks under command of Capt Jenkins, leader of advance party. Arrived at Baccarat, France 0543, 2 Dec 44. Total distance traveled 29 Nov 44 to 2 Dec 44 was 315 miles. No unusual incidents during march.

During the period 2 Dec 44 to 6 Dec 44, the Battalion made preparation to complete maintenance, ammunition loads, and storage of vehicles. Tentative plans formulated for organization of Tank-Infantry Combat Teams. On 4 Dec 44 Battalion organized in to Force, Power, consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 714<sup>th</sup>, Company A 714<sup>th</sup>, Company B 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, and one platoon of Company B, 119<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. At 1030 4 Dec 44 Battalion CO met with Company and separate platoon commanders. Plans for coordination, communications and materiel available discussed in detail. At 2030 4 Dec 44 Air Alert, no other incidents.

At 0730 5 Dec 44, warning order received from CC-B for march 0500 6 Dec 44 to assembly area vicinity of Helling, France. At 1800 5 Dec 44 Field Order Number 2, Hq CC-B received for march to the vicinity of Helling, France. At 1830 Battalion Commander issued order for movement of Power Force. At 0515 6 Dec 44 left Baccarat, France enroute to Hirschland. At 0556 crossed IP at Donnievre, France, at 0852 6 Dec 44 arrived at Hirschland, France. CP established in abandoned tavern (Emil Schmidts'). Force tactically disposed to north and east of Hirschland, France.

At 0900 7 Dec 44 Battalion alerted for movement to vicinity of Rehling, France. Field Order Number 4 and route of march issued for movement 1000 7 Dec 44. At 1630 S-2 made detailed map reconnaissance of Division's probable zone of action. At 1730 assembled staff and company commanders given map study of probably Division front by S-2.

Battalion alerted to move at 1100 8 Dec 44, order received 1045. Verbal order and overlay issued by Battalion Commander to assemble company and separate platoon commanders, Power Force at 1045, 8 Dec 44. Force, Power left Hirschland 1315, arrived Delingen, France 1730, distance traveled was 14 miles. Troops tactically disposed to east of Delingen.

On 9 Dec 44, periodic checks of camouflage and tactical disposition by Battalion staff. Battalion staff officers reconnoiter front line.

On 11 Dec 44, Division Field Order #3 was received from Combat Command B alerting the Force for movement to the vicinity of Singling, France 0840. The consolidation of Power and Striker Task Forces took place on this date. Company B, 56<sup>th</sup> AIB was exchanged for Company C, 56<sup>th</sup> AIB per verbal order of the Commanding Officer, Combat Command B.

At 1113 11 Dec 44, Colonel Bromley, commanding officer, Combat Command B, arrived at Force CP with verbal orders on plan maneuver. At 1326 Lt Col Phelan gave his order for movement of the Force to assembly area east of Singling, France. A meeting of Force Company Commanders and separate platoon leaders was held at this time. Field Order #6 was given verbally by Lt Col Phelan. The Force went under control of Combat Command A at 1400, prior to the attack. At 1400, the Force moved out to assembly area in the vicinity of Guising, France. The Force was in position at 1530. The Force commander returned to the CP at 1830 to meet with the Commanding General of Combat Command A in Rehling, France. At 0100 12 Dec 44, Lt Col Phelan returned from meeting with orders for the attack.

At 0530 12 Dec 44, an attack was launched for high ground east of Guising, France. At 1100, Force was on objective. At this time, reorganization of the Force took place and plans were discussed for continuing the attack. The second attack was launched on Bettviller, France at 1330. At 1530, Bettviller, France was occupied. At 1600, two minor casualties due to artillery and mortar fire.

At 0800 13 Dec 44, the Force consolidated positions in Bettviller, France. The Force Commander left the assembly area in Bettviller at 1200 for meeting with the Commanding General, Combat Command A at Rorhbach, France, returning to the CP in Singling at 1600. The Force CP moved to Bettviller, France at 2030 and was under mortar and artillery fire throughout the night.

At 2100 15 Dec 44, the Assault Gun Platoon, firing indirect fire, destroyed one Mark VI German tank.

At 1700 16 Dec 44 the Task Force reverted to Combat Command B control. Ten civilians turned in at approximately 2400 as deserters from the German Army, but it was later found that they were forced labor deserters and they were returned to civilian status.

The Task Force commander left the CP at 1130 17 Dec 44 to contact General McBride of the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, returning at 1339. During the day, periodic reports were received on observation of enemy positions. Three prisoners of war were captured on this date.

The Task Force moved from Bettviller, France at 1230 18 Dec 44 for bivouac area in the vicinity of Montbronn, France and closed in at 1530. At 1800 the Liaison Officer arrived at the CP with orders for the Force to be prepared to move. At 1100 19 Dec 44 the Force moved out for the vicinity of Urbach, France. Closed in bivouac at Mehlingerhoff Farm in the vicinity of Urbach, France.

On 20 Dec 44 the Commanding Officer of Combat Command B, Col Bromley, arrived at the CP to discuss the situation with the Force Commander. At 0620 20 Dec 44 the Force moved in to firing positions. Left Mehlingerhoff Farm at that time. At 0950 the Force made first penetration into Germany, south of Utweiler. At 1600 there were a total of 38 prisoners of war captured.

On 22 Dec 44, Capt Rocky, S-4, was a casualty from a booby trap. One reconnaissance NCO and one infantry platoon leader were casualties from artillery fire.

At 0630 23 Dec 44, Capt Rocky, S-43, died as a result of wounds received from booby traps on 22 Dec 44. At 0915 eight men were wounded from enemy artillery fire. At 0930 four men were killed, four men wounded, and one man killed by burst of enemy 88mm.

On 24 Dec 44, at 1030, Colonel Bromley, Commanding Officer, CC-B, visited the CP to discuss the situation.

During the morning of 25 Dec 44, enemy artillery was active in the vicinity of Bettviller, France and at 1230, one officer and three enlisted men were wounded and one enlisted man killed. One prisoner was taken at 1400.

The Force moved from the vicinity of Urbach, France and assembled in the vicinity of Bettviller, France for moved to Hirschland, France after being relieved by the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Move from Bettviller, France at approximately 0145 enroute to Hirschland, France, arriving there at 0510 26 Dec 44.

On 26 Dec 44, Christmas dinner was served to the Force.

At 1340 27 Dec 44, bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Hirschland, France but it was believed that they were from friendly planes.

On 28 Dec 44, memorial services were held by Chaplain Hopkinson, Combat Command B for men of the Force that were killed in action.

At 0730 29 Dec 44, the Force left Hirschland, France enroute to the vicinity of Mulcey, France, arriving there at 1400.

The period 29 through 31 Dec 44 was spent in resting of troops and maintenance of vehicles and weapons.

(signed)

FREDERICK P. FIELD  
Major, Cavalry  
Commanding

CONSOLIDATED CASUALTY REPORT FROM 1 DECEMBER 44 – 31 DECEMBER 1944

BATTLE CASUALTIES	50
RETURNED TO DUTY	7
NON-BATTLE CASUALTIES	16
RETURNED TO DUTY	5
KILLED IN ACTION	8
DIED AS RESULT OF WOUNDS	2

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

Lt Col William J Phelan – Commanding  
Major Frederick P Field – Executive Officer  
Captain Herbert E Magruder – S-2  
Captain James M Boone – S-3  
Captain John K Shipe – S-4  
Captain John E Steurwald – S-5  
Captain Morris Schwartz – Comm. Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Joe C Carlson – S-1  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt – SSO GRO  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath – Liaison Officer  
Captain Charles E Jenkins – Unassigned – Now Div GRO

Hq Co

Captain George Harding – Commanding  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt William G Manders – Assault Gun Platoon Leader  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor – Reconnaissance Platoon Leader  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons – Mortar Platoon Leader  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Harold A Sleeman – Maintenance Officer

A Co

Captain Robert W Harrington – Commanding  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster – Tank Platoon Leader  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin – Maintenance Officer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge – Tank Platoon Leader  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt – Tank Platoon Leader

ROSTER OF OFFICERS (Continued)

B Co	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt James W Leehman – Commanding 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Wilman E Goad – Maintenance Officer 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arthur D Slote – Tank Platoon Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Roy C Daniels – Tank Platoon Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Charles M Hisiger – Tank Platoon Leader	
C Co	Capt Charles C Clayton - Commanding 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Ronald S Landau – Maintenance Officer 1 <sup>st</sup> Damon A Dolce – Tank Platoon Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Richard P La France – Tank Platoon Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William W Turley – Tank Platoon Leader	<i>(note: first 7 letters of this section of the document are very faint; Co title &amp; ranks may not be correct)</i>
D Co	Capt William H Harridge – Commanding 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff – Maintenance Officer 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt John G Cook – Tank Platoon Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ace H Traktman – Tank Platoon Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William J Venama – Tank Platoon Leader	<i>(note: first 7 letters of this section of the document are very faint; Co title &amp; ranks may not be correct)</i>
Service Co	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert S Kelly – Commanding 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Christopher T Garvey – Transportation Officer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Casimir F Grachewakin – Maintenance Officer CWO Joseph T Collins – Personnel Officer WOJG Charles D Frazier – Asst Battalion Motor Officer WOJG Harold M Frost – Asst Battalion Supply Officer	

HEADQUARTERS  
714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION  
Tennessee Maneuver Area

16 November 1943

GENERAL ORDER)  
:  
NUMBER . . . . . 2)

1. The following appointments to the staff of this Headquarters are announced:

Executive. Major AMEL F. KISZONAK (0291582).

Adjutant. (S-1) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt DAN M. BECKETT (01015415).

Intelligence Officer. (S-2) Capt WILLIAM F. WRIGHT (0303557).

Plans and Training Officer. (S-3) Major ORIN W. HERTZ (0242421).

Supply Officer. (S-4) Capt MICHAEL ROCKY (0481012)

(signed)

JAMES W. SNEE  
Lt Colonel, Cavalry  
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS  
714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION  
Tennessee Maneuver Area

18 November 1943

GENERAL ORDERS)

:  
NUMBER . . . . . 3)

MOVEMENT OF 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION TO FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion is relieved from permanent station Camp Campbell, Ky and Temporary Station Tennessee Maneuver Area and is assigned to permanent Station Fort Jackson, SC.

2. This movement will be made in accordance with provisions of Letter, Hq Second Army, file A G 370.5-16 (GNMBF) dated 22 Sept 1943, Subject: "Instructions Governing Domestic Troop Movements" and Par 6, SO No. 211 Maneuver Director Hq Second Army, dated 18 November 1943.

a. WP o/a 18 Nov 1943.

b. Movement will be by motor supplemented by necessary rail T.

c. Entraining point for elements moving by rail: Carthage Junction, Tenn.

d. Personnel not required to accompany troops are authorized TPA under provisions of Par 1j, AR 35-4820, 19 Sept 1942.

e. Movement will be made with all equipment on hand as authorized by appropriate T/E, less equipment loaned for use while in Tenn Maneuver Area.

f. Upon arrival at new Station, Battalion is relieved for assignment XX Corps and from control Maneuver Director Hq Second Army and is assigned to XII Corps.

3. TDN 1-5200 P 431, 433-02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08 A 212/40425.

By order of Lt Col SNEE:

DAN M. BECKETT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Inf.  
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

(signed)  
DAN M. BECKETT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Inf.  
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS  
714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION  
Fort Jackson, S.C.

19 November 1943

GENERAL ORDERS)

:  
NUMBER . . . . . 4)

REORGANIZATION AND REDESIGNATION, 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION

1. This Battalion was Reorganized and Redesignated effective 11 November 1943. The old and new designations are as shown below. (Auth: Ltr, Hq AGF, File 320.2/32 (Armd Divs) (C) Subject: "Reorganization of Armed Divisions," dated 15 Sept 1943 and G.O. No. 36 Hq 12<sup>th</sup> Armed Division, dated 11 Nov 1943.

OLD DESIGN ATION

Hq 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div  
Hq Co 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div  
Co "G" 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div  
Co "H" 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div  
Co "I" 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div  
Hq & Hq Co 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div  
Med Det 44<sup>th</sup> Armd Regt, 12<sup>th</sup> Armd Div

NEW DESIGNATION

Hq 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn  
Hq Co 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn  
Co "A" 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn  
Co "B" 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn  
Co "C" 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn  
Co "D" 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn  
Med Det 714<sup>th</sup> Tk Bn

By order of Lt Colonel SNEE

DAN M. BECKETT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Inf.  
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

(signed)  
DAN M. BECKETT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Inf.  
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS  
714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION  
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

22 December 1943 JWS/1a

GENERAL ORDERS)  
:  
NUMBER . . . . . 6)

1. Under provisions of AR 600-20, the undersigned hereby reassumes command.

JAMES W. SNEE  
Lt Col, Cav.

## 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – AWARDS & DECORATIONS – JANUARY 1945

### SILVER STAR

Tec 5 Thomas F Johnson, 364298894	GO 11, Par I 9 & 10 Jan 45
S/Sgt Thomas A Poole, 33215167	GO 11, Par I 9 & 10 Jan 45
T/4 Robert K Sacks, 37320007	GO 11, Par I 9 & 10 Jan 45
T/5 Walter L Snow, 15054414	GO 11, Par I 9 & 10 Jan 45
S/Sgt Joseph A Podzynski, 36533214	GO 11, Sec II 9 & 10 Jan 45

### BRONZE STAR

Lt Col William J Phelan, 016870	GO 6, Par 3 20-26 Dec 44
Capt Michael Rocky, 0481012	GO 6, Par 3 deceased
Pvt William F Bartelt, Jr, 16102136	GO 11, Sec IV 23 Dec 44
Sgt William V Okoniewski, 6874051	GO 11, Sec IV 9 Jan 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt John N McDougal, 02006418	GO 11, Sec VI 10 Jan 45
Cpl Harold N Oakes, Jr, 37443908	GO 11, Sec VI 9 Jan 45
S/Sgt Maurice I Seller, 32091896	GO 11, Sec VI 10 Jan 45

### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta, 32563087	GO 1, Par 5 1 Jan 45
Pfc Carl A Achterberg, 36817725	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Winston Ball, 35365986	GO 1, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 45
Pfc Francis A Calliendo, 31040860	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Sgt John Fekett, 35586258	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Meyer Friendlander, 42035217	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc James B Henson, 34449539	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Sgt Joseph F Jaconetty, 36609982	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Raymond S Koncsal, 32552116	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Frank W Langenbacher, 33678950	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
T/4 Jesse L Russell, 383129550	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Marvin Weissman, 32273745	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Oscar N Williams, 39192754	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pfc Jess Zamora, 39685208	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45
Pft Sidney Zislin, 12080172	GO 11, Sec VIII, 9 & 10 Jan 45

All above Awards and Decorations have been issued through Hq, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

## 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION - NARRATIVE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY 1945

For the period 1 – 5 January 1945, the battalion was devoted to training, reorganization and resting of troops. Training schedules stressed tank-infantry team problems, night patrolling, small arms firing in firing range area, gas security, and physical training. (See attached training schedules.)

The battalion by verbal order was on one half hour alert status.

Battalion location was vicinity of Mulcey, France.

6 Jan 1945: at 2020 the force was alerted to move. At 2300 the Task Force moved from area near Mulcey, France, crossed IP at Mittersheim 070140, and closed in Alt-Eckendorf at 070730.

7 Jan 1945: at 0900 CO of CC-B visited the Battalion CP. Col Phelan left for reconnaissance of area in vicinity of Hagenau, France. The Task Force Exec Officer, Major Fields, left for Hagenau, France to attend a meeting with Col Bromely, CO CC-B at the 79<sup>th</sup> Inf Division CP. At 1510 the Task Force Commander and S-3, Major Boone, returned from reconnaissance at 1715. Major Fields returned from meeting at 79<sup>th</sup> Inf Division CP at 1715.

Lt Col Phelan and Major Boone (S-3) (then Captain) returned from reconnaissance of front lines 071510. A meeting was called for all company commanders at 1730, verbal plan given to Col Phelan by CC-B prior to the move from Weyersheim, France, gave the battalion the mission of supporting the 56<sup>th</sup> Inf attack on Herrlisheim, France, by the 56<sup>th</sup>, 714<sup>th</sup>, and other units of the force; the 714<sup>th</sup> plus C of the 56<sup>th</sup> would move southeast to Offendorf as the second objective. The 56<sup>th</sup> Inf minus would move northeast to attack Drusenheim from the south. Both attacks were to be coordinated. Task Force number 5 left vicinity of Alt-Eckendorf 071900 and closed in Weyersheim 072000. Overlays to verbal order and enemy situation were given to companies at 080230. (See attached)

8 Jan 1945: at 0442 Lt Taylor, Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, returned from route reconnaissance to Rohrwiller, France. Lt Taylor reported that two bridges were out between our positions and attack area, the first bridge south of Bischweiler may be bypassed by an alternate route. Liaison Officer returned from CC-B, confirmed report that the two bridges were blown on route. At 0730 the Task Force moved from Weyersheim, France to an assembly area in vicinity of Rohrwiller, France. At 0945 a verbal message to follow plan was received. (Task Forces now include 56<sup>th</sup> Inf Minus, plus Co B of 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, the other 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion minus Co B, plus C/56.) Company C moved out with two platoons infantry leading at 1000, doughs across foot bridge at 1030, tanks across first bridge at 1045 (coordinates of bridge out 134163). During the hours 0715 to 1130 the town of Rohrwiller, France and assembly area were subjected to aerial and impact artillery. The battalion CP was moved from Rohrwiller, France and established at Hanshoffen, France at 1831. At frequent intervals beginning 1300 enemy positions were reported from air (enemy battery located R130105 75 MM, self-propelled battery going into position at R112114, one enemy gun at R117101). Artillery placed fire on enemy self-propelled 75s. PW reports at 1900: 88s at R13751305, R13851310, R14151325. CP Battalion (Kappes) at K12651395. Company D 92 Recon Battalion reported enemy patrols at R090172, 1950. (Supply information, water points R097192 will be open 090800.) Additional supply information

in message received 2340, sent to S-2 by Exec Off. "See if you can get in touch with S-4 and stop his movement of trucks into Hanshoffen."

9 Jan 1945: at 0555 civilian informant reports that many enemy infantry are in Herrlisheim. Enemy tanks were reported to be at 132165. At 090800 CC-B reported that bridge that had been out was now ready for use. At 0835 unidentified men numbering ten were sighted in vicinity of Herrlisheim carrying Red Cross flag; the commanding officer ordered that they would not be fired on. At bridge east of Rohrwiller, France Company A of task force reported that they were receiving anti-tank fire on their positions. Lt Parsons, mortar platoon leader, was ordered to coordinate his fire plan with the plan of attack to be made by task forces on Herrlisheim. Grasshopper artillery planes were in the air spotting anti-tank gun positions of the enemy. By 1140 tank companying of the task force have all reported that their company is ready to move out on the attack and review of their orders is given them. Company A is ordered to have two platoons fire spasmodically into south of Herrlisheim. Company B attached to 56<sup>th</sup> Inf minus moves to the flank to north of Herrlisheim, reporting that crossing of canal bridge had been accomplished. Company C was now in firing position and firing into Herrlisheim. B Company had advanced to southern edge of town after elements of the 56<sup>th</sup> Inf had entered. Prior to these movements, enemy tanks numbering 25 were reported along east-west road between the towns of Herrlisheim and Offendorf. After advancing under heavy enemy fire, the town of Herrlisheim was occupied in its north sector by the task force. Casualties of personnel up to this time numbered about eight, vehicle casualties amounted to about eight. Re-supply of the force now occupying Herrlisheim was becoming acute due to concentrated anti-tank fire being directed on the approaches to Herrlisheim. Evacuation of wounded that was being carried on by Company D of task force was advancing into the concentrations of anti-tank fire and likewise suffering personnel and vehicle casualties. The assembly area of Rohrwiller, France was attacked by enemy infantry at 2055. Captain Shipe, Battalion S-4, in Rohrwiller reported that enemy were infiltrating into Rohrwiller.

10 Jan 1945: at 0740 it was reported that heavy casualties were suffered by the infantry. Five enemy tanks are moving into east of Herrlisheim with smoke concentrations laid along railroad to east at 1145. At 1355 the Exec Officer and Communications Officer with crew of the S-3 halftrack moved forward to better their communications with troops occupying Herrlisheim. At 1403 Lt Col Phelan was wounded by enemy artillery while making plans for consolidation of the sector of Herrlisheim that the force had taken. At 1410 message was intercepted at Battalion CP requesting that Col Phelan be evacuated from Herrlisheim. Staff Sergeant T A Poole of Company D was killed attempting to traverse the open ground that was under heavy anti-tank fire, in an attempt to evacuate the commanding officer. Staff Sergeant Maurice I Seller was injured in this same action. Major Boone, S-3 (then Captain) assumed command of the forces in Herrlisheim until Exec Officer, Major Fields, advanced to the position. Major Fields with S-3 halftrack goes forward to Aid Station in Rohrwiller. In Rohrwiller medics were being held down by patrol rifle and machine gun fire, making their mission of personnel evacuation of wounded impossible at that time. At 1500 Major Fields contacts D Company, 714<sup>th</sup>, the company that had been evacuating wounded over the ground covered by anti-tank fire, in an attempt

to contact A Company of the force anti-tank fire halted the Exec Officer's attempt to survey the situation in the occupied area. Major Fields returned at 1620 and left for CC-B for orders and plan. On his return Major Fields gives Major Boone orders to withdraw from Herrlisheim; the plan of withdrawal would be accomplished by artillery concentrations to cover withdrawal, with other units of the force coordinated so as to give protection to units that were to move out at a preconceived signal. Infantry were to move out first, followed by tanks; outpost protection was established with infantry to protect any flank infiltration of enemy in the withdrawal. On 102015 Major Fields called Captain Harrington, commander of Company A, to explain situation. From 1600 the vicinity of CP at Hanshoffen was shelled. After the order of withdrawal from Herrlisheim had been given the S-2, Captain Magruder, was sent to the new assembly area north of Rohrwiller to make arrangements for guides to area, posting them personally. The S-2 reported his actions to Major Fields at 2230. Message that Col Phelan is evacuated, that his tank will be passing soon was received at 2335.

11 Jan 1945: in the assault on Herrlisheim, Company B, 714<sup>th</sup> was ordered to revert to 714<sup>th</sup> from 56<sup>th</sup> Inf attachment. The withdrawal was accomplished with no casualties to the task force. In the assembly area the 56<sup>th</sup> Inf minus again assumed the attachment of B/714<sup>th</sup>. Captain Harrington, Company A, 714<sup>th</sup> will report to Col Bahr, Division Artillery, and take up roll of supporting artillery. Lt Taylor report to Major Avery, S-3 CC-B, for route and areas in vicinity to repel any counterattacks from northeast, east and north and southeast. An overlay was submitted immediately to CC-B showing exact locations of vehicle casualties, location of Hq Company, and tanks evacuated by type (see attached overlay).

12 Jan 1945: Battalion CP was set up at Oberhoffen, France on order of CC-B to have companies assemble in that town. Reorganization accomplished.

13 Jan 1945: A meeting of all company commanders and the staff was called for 0955. Major Fields commanding left for CC-B. CO arrived from CC-B at 1050 announcing the forthcoming plans for CC-B would hinge on actions of CC-A and 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division to the north. Company commanders were given flight schedule to observe from air enemy positions and to make an aerial reconnaissance by 1200. Platoons from companies of 714<sup>th</sup> were given diversionary missions in the vicinity of Rohrwiller coordinating their actions with the attacks of CC-A. The Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, Lt Taylor, made reconnaissance for defilade positions west of railroad running north and south. The mortar platoon and assault gun platoon would take up positions in vicinity of tri-bridges northeast of Rohrwiller. At 1700 a meeting of all company commanders at battalion CP was called for purpose of discussion of day's ground and aerial reconnaissance. Plans for reconnaissance were made to continue for 14 Jan 1945. Between 132200 and 132300 reports of red flare by friendly troops in vicinity of Rohrwiller reputed to be enemy. Enemy artillery were shelling area with large caliber, approximately 20 shells in immediate area. Shelling ceased 140105.

14 Jan 1945: At 0552 reports reached battalion Hq that 30 enemy infantry had infiltrated behind our lines CR 105145 at 0532. Company commander of Company D/714<sup>th</sup> was ordered to alert

his company and report to post duty. Reconnaissance Platoon was attached to D/714<sup>th</sup> and put on outpost duty. Company A was notified that they were to report to 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 79<sup>th</sup> Inf Div at Rohrwiller. At 1300 an overlay of the enemy situation was sent to the companies. Forward Observers from 494<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery reported at CP for their missions and assignment to companies for artillery support.

15 Jan 1945: At 2025 Field Order was issued by CO indicating detailed firing positions for Company A in direct support of Engineers in the vicinity of the tri-bridges east of Rohrwiller. Captain Harding, Hq Company commander, was ordered to coordinate command of assault gun and mortar platoon in this area. Plans as follows: Map – France 1/25000, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division attacks 16 Jan 45 at 0200 to seize objective as shown on overlay. CC-A attacks at daylight to seize Staihwald woods (overlay), French Army attacks on 16 Jan 45 at 0930 to seize Gamsheim (see overlay). 314<sup>th</sup> demonstrates vicinity Drusenheim 0130 for one hour. For detail assignments see Hq CC-B, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Field Order #5 (attached). (Paragraph 1, F O #5, inclusive above.) (see attached overlay for mortar concentrations)

16 Jan 1945: Enemy actions executed against the aforementioned plan resulted in the following incidents. At 1010 the element from Company C received small arms fire in their positions. At 1026 three casualties were reported at A Company position. D Company 714<sup>th</sup> received message at 1105 calling for aid in evacuation of wounded of 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Elements of force reported seven casualties at 1116, requesting evacuation by D/714<sup>th</sup>. 714<sup>th</sup> was now located 500 yards south of checkpoint A. A request for evacuation of wounded was sent by Company A and in compliance Exec Officer informed them that three tanks were on the way at 1117. The 56<sup>th</sup> Inf, after suffering many losses, was in dire need of consolidation, A Company of 714<sup>th</sup> suggested that a smokescreen be laid down for cover. The operations of the force were unsuccessful and units were ordered to withdraw. On 161720 the commanding officer was called to CC-B for a meeting; at 1750 CO called on telephone to have company commanders assemble at CP. Company A reported that two tanks had been disabled by enemy fire, one man was reported killed by AP shell at creek. CO returned from CC-B with the verbal order. At 170600 Task Force Field moved.

17 Jan 1945: After repeated attempts in putting in treadway bridge by the 119<sup>th</sup> Engineers for the coming operation, the 92 Cavalry will assist in this task. The rebuilding of this bridge was necessary frequently due to enemy artillery zeroed in on that point – east of Rohrwiller. The plan continues as follows for Task Force Field. B and C Companies, 714<sup>th</sup> and one platoon of A Company will assemble in area west of Rohrwiller by 0500, picking up 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry B and C companies. At 0600 Company C will move out with mission of seizing road and railroad intersection to east, not to pass further than that point, B Company starts as soon as C Company clears treadway bridge, one platoon of B Company swings to left and heads for trees near river/canal. B proceeds from north side of railroad, paying particular attention to edge of creek where three enemy tanks were previously reported. Suspected enemy occupying a factory 450 yards forward of the position to be taken up by assault gun and mortar



platoons vicinity of Rohrwiller. A Company one platoon at factory will on order take remainder of infantry and mop up area in rear; on taking initial objective, Force Field will proceed north with Company B and occupy factory. Company C will consolidate on road running north and south. Infantry will be under complete control of tanks, to be used in close support of tanks, riding six doughs per tank. The infantry will be instructed to fire from the backs of tanks into foxholes known to be in this area, be prepared for counterattack from Herrlisheim and enemy fire from creek that bulges in. Company D will remain in CC-B reserve, one tank report immediately for Infantry Command Vehicle. Assault gun and mortar platoons will go into positions at 0600. Checkpoints on route of attack were specified.

In a meeting with CC-B at 170130 CO returns with change of plan. Factory will not be taken, C Company to establish bridgehead at railroad. Force to take Herrlisheim, B Company to carry doughs, C Company to protect north, A Company to cover west of town, B Company to cover west of town. Prior to move by companies the tri-bridge site was reported as being shelled by enemy artillery. This operation resulted in an unsuccessful assault due to heavy concentrations of enemy anti-tank fire and artillery that was placed on route of attack and repeated destruction of the tri-bridges. The entire action is included in detail in the Battalion S-2, S-3 Journal for 17 Jan 1945. The journal includes small unit actions, decisions, orders, reasons, and a discussion of unsuccessful as well as successful actions for this operation.

18 Jan 1945: At 0130 company commanders were called to the battalion CP for a meeting, and for discussion of situation and plans for 18 Jan 1945. The situation as was given to the companies was as follows: Disposition of friendly troops including the 43<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion and the 17<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion are now at the southern end of Herrlisheim, but not in contact with the enemy (they have reported to have taken 300 prisoners). The 56<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion plus one company of tanks will move to the vicinity of Rohrwiller, France. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division is now south of Herrlisheim and will jump off on the attack at 180400. Herrlisheim as the first objective with Drusenheim as the second objective, in conjunction with CC-B. CC-B attacks today to establish a bridgehead and follow the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion to seize and hold high ground. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion minus is in Corps reserve. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will support the attack with two companies and supporting weapons. One company of the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will be attached to 92<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry to support the attack. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will move on orders and will be prepared to attack at 0600. Plan: Attacking elements of the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will not go forward until the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion passes their front, however positions will be taken up prior to 0400. Company D, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was ordered to dispatch two light tanks to infantry task force forward CP to aid in evacuation of wounded and transportation for infantry commanders. The plans for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion were altered in that some of their pressure would be directed south of Herrlisheim. In support of the attack Company B was alerted at 0850 to move to a position past tri bridges to take up positions in woods east of Rohrwiller. Company C with like mission will precede Company B. The assault gun platoon will take up positions to afford support by fire in area of the factory east of Rohrwiller where positions of the enemy have been reported.

19 Jan 1945: During 172130 through 182347, this action proved an unsuccessful attempt to gain its objective due to enemy reinforcements and defensive gun positions that had been set up in Herrlisheim, Drusenheim and in defiladed fire positions east of Rohrwiller. The complete action is in detail related in the S-2, S-3 journal for the aforementioned period. The journal complete in detail includes actions, decision and orders by units that took part in this phase. On 190530, Company B, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was attached to the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to form Force Lehman, the commanding officer of Company B. The 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was attacking Drusenheim at dawn with Company B, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion in support. At 0740 a message from CC-B reported that enemy of unknown strength was crossing canal in vicinity of Rohrwiller 108142. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was alerted and prepared to move immediately. The companies now assembled in Oberhoffen alerted their personnel for a move to repel the enemy thrust. At 0840 resupplied the battalion with small arms ammunition. Outpost platoons of Company A located in woods east of Rohrwiller reported that no enemy action in their sector had been detected. The enemy force proved to be reconnaissance in force and through actions of the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion and infantry implaced in Rohrwiller, the assault was repelled. At 1445 the S-3 proceeds to Bischwiller on reconnaissance for contemplated move of CP. At 1630 the orders for the battalion to move to Bischwiller were cancelled in order that the battalion may meet an armored thrust reported to be 20 enemy tanks proceeding in the direction of Rohrwiller. On 191645 Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was ordered to a position at vicinity of factory site south of Bischwiller. The infantry was ordered to blow bridges and holds their positions that had been established east of Rohrwiller and Bischwiller. After defense positions were set up in the area of Rohrwiller and Bischwiller, the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion minus moved to the new CP in Bischwiller and closed in at 1730.

20 Jan 1945: Positions now held by companies of the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will be spread over a wide area east of Bischwiller with fields of fire available to northeast and south. The mission at this time is mainly supporting. The enemy thrust had been repelled and positions, plans and moves in case of a counterattack were verbally issued. The battalion CP was moved from southeast Bischwiller to northeast Bischwiller. On this date the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was withdrawn from the front lines for a move to Brumath, France.

21 Jan 1945: At 0005 the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion left assembly area in Bischwiller, France.

22 Jan 1945: At 1100 the battalion was attached as reserve to the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, now in Bischwiller area, and placed on 20 minute alert. Company B was attached to the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and placed on a 20 minute alert.

23 Jan 1945: The location of the battalion CP now in Brumath, France received artillery fire on the night of 23 Jan 1945.

24 Jan 1945: The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was alerted to move to vicinity of Strasbourg, France at 1000. The time for move was advanced to 1400. At 1235 the movement order was cancelled until further notice. On 241530 the battalion dispatched billeting parties; they were later recalled and reported to stand by until further notice.

25 Jan 1945: At 1300 an order was received to move at once crossing IP at Stephansville at 1400. The S-1 with an advance billeting detail proceeded to Eckwersheim, France to secure CP and billets for the battalion. The battalion closed in Eckwersheim, France at 1545. On 252100, Company A was notified to set up outposts and maintain until 260900 at which time Company B would relieve them. Service Company and Company D CPs and billets were located in Berstett, France. Company B will set up outposts in Berstett. At 2120, S/Sgt Wright was sent out to reconnoiter routes in the surrounding area. (See overlay route of march.)

26 Jan 1945: At 1100 S/Sgt Wright, Reconnaissance platoon, was sent out to reconnoiter bridges over canals in the surrounding area of Eckwersheim and Berstett, his main efforts of reconnaissance were to the northeast of Eckwersheim and as far north as Brumath, France, south to Hoenheim, France, east to Kilstett, France. (See overlay attached). At 1110 Major Fields left for liaison with French Army to the south. On 261830 company commanders made reconnaissance of surrounding area of Eckwersheim paying particular attention to routes from the east.

27 Jan 1945: The commanding officer left for CC-R at 1000 and returned at 1800.

28 Jan 1945: Reconnaissance made by Reconnaissance Platoon indicated location of inundated areas, mine fields, the condition of bridges and demolitions for same in the area east of Eckwersheim, France (see attached overlay). For the period 282900 through 281740 various plans of offensive actions were submitted to units of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division for attacks that may be made to the northeast plus plans of defense of area of present location. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion remained on a three-hour alert.

29 January to 1 February 1945: the Battalion spent in Tank Infantry plans and training.

s/s

F. P. FIELD  
Major, Cavalry  
Commanding

**LISTING OF INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC FOR JANUARY 1945**

<u>TIME</u>		<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATED</u>		<u>TAKEN</u>
2020		1	062020	Task Force alerted to move out; have men get packed	S T
2030		2	062300	Task Force moved out from area around Mulcey	
		3	070140	Crossed IP – Mittersheim	
		4	070730	Closed in Alteckendorf; Col Bromley visited CP	
		5	071230`	CO left for reconnaissance of area vicinity of Hagenau	
		7	071400	LO arrived from CC-B and returned	
		8	071417	Ex O left for Hagenau to attend meeting with Col Bromley at 79 <sup>th</sup> Div CP	
1358		9	0712323	Have guides meet Tns west edge Hochfelden	S-4
1403		10	071403	Report Battalion in S-4 net	Comm O
1546		11	071045	Class 3 (2 DP) 0324 and 8293 Class 58 017 WPs 0324 and 8293 Class 1 will be located at 99248 Jan 45	S-4
1442		12	062200	Received 12 <sup>th</sup> AD S-2 report No. 14	S T M
		13	071510	CO and S-3 returned from reconnaissance of front line	S T M
		14	071715	Ex O returned from meeting at Hagenau	S M
		15	071730	Meeting of all Co commanders	
		16	071900	Task Force #5 left vicinity of Alteckendorf	
		17	072000	Closed in Weyersheim	
		1	080230	Overlay in verbal order	
		2	080230	Overlay to enemy situation	
		3	080442	Lt Taylor back from route reconnaissance of march	
		4		Two bridges blown on route of march	
			080518	LO from CC-B	
		5	080518	LO returned from CC-B. Info on two bridges blown	
		6	080730	Moved from Weyersheim to assembly area in vicinity Rohrweiler	
	0935	7	080932	Bridge at mike not in	S M
		8	080800	Capt Fairborn CO of 56 Inf Co wounded in shoulder by sniper	
		9	080945	Verbal message to follow plan	
		10	081000	Co C moved out with 2 plats. Inf leading doughs	
		11	081030	across foot bridge	
		12	081045	Tanks across first bridge	
1130	13	081130		Bridge out at coordinates 134-163	
		14		During this period town of Rohrweiler and assembly area subjected to aerial and impact artillery	
		15	081130	CO arrived at CP Rohrweiler	
		16	081200	CO left in tank	
		17	081352	Air reports enemy battery R 130105 75 MM, SP battery going into position at R 112114, 1 gun at R 117101	
		18	081438	Artillery obsrs took cord of enemy SP 75 to lay counter fire	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>	
		19	081530	Moved CP from Rohrwiller	
		20	081831	Established CP at Hanhoffen	
		21	081825	Exec Officer left for CC-B	
1850		22	081850	Stopped support fire at dark – from CO, relayed to CC-B	H
1920		25	081900	PW reports 88s at R 13751305, R 13851310 and R 14151325. CP Bn Kappes at K 12651595. 37 MM gun R 155129 and R 136130. CP 3 Co. Bn. Kappes at R136132	
	2000	24	081955	D/92 reports enemy patrol at R 090172 at 1950	S T M
1920		25	072200	S-2 Report No. 15 received	S T M
		26	082100	Exec Officer returned from CC-B	
1950		27	081655	Motor Points R 097192 open 090800	T
		28	082145	Exec Officer left for CC-B	
		29	082245	Liaison Officer from CC-B	
2230		30	082248	Send casualty report for C/56 by 090800	c/56
2340		31	082340	See if you can get in touch with S-4 and stop his movement of trucks – from Exec Officer to S-2	
		32		Overlay of IPW information	X
		1	090120	Exec Officer arrived from CO Tank	
0200		2	090140	Maintain liaison with Co. D 314, at present holding bridgehead 130168 – after they move out hold bridgehead with 1 platoon tanks	S
0617		3	090555	Civilian informant reports many enemy Inf in Herrlisheim	S
0637		4	090650	Enemy tanks reported 132165, be prepared to support by fire	S
		5	090710	Lt Schmidt A/Co Plat Ldr at CP, sees Ex Off and ordered to report his Co. – Plat was with A/92	
		6	090800	CC-B reports bridge ready for use 130168	S
		7	090830	CO calls for Recon Plat Ldr & Plat to report to him with tank recovery vehicles with fuel for dynamotors	Recon
		8	090835	Unidentified 10 men with red cross flag come out of Herrlisheim	
		9	090840	CO orders no firing at red cross	T
		10	090910	Some AT fire being received by A/Co at bridge west of Rohrwiller	
		11	090835	Lt Persons Mtr Plat ordered to coordinate fire plan	
		12	090950	Artillery to have grasshopper look for AT gun	
		13	090930	A/Co ready to perform mission	
		14		Fire fight started	
1010		15	082200	G-2 Information Report No. 16 received (12 AD)	S T M
		16	091030	C/56 reported approximately 100 PWs taken	
		17	091040	Col Bromley called CC on radio saying he was coming over to talk to him	
		18	091121	Exec Officer returned from CC-B	
		19	091131	S-3 and Rammer (B/Co) start across flank to north	

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>	
	20	091136	B/Co reports finding of crossing of canal; ordered to approach town (Herrlisheim) from north		
	21	091130	C/Co to firing position, ordered to fire into town		
	22	091140	A/Co ordered to have 2 plats fire spasmodically in south of town		
	23	091115	Elements of 56 enter town (A/Co)		
	24	091200	Open space between two towns		
1245	25	091245	PW reports 25 enemy tanks along SW road in center of Herrlisheim on road that crosses canal		
1258	26	091258	Send truck to take care of prisoners	Ex O	
1315	27	091315	Report channels used by your 309s		
	1333	28	091330	Encoded answer to 091515	H
	1347	29	091320	PW report following locations. 23 tanks in Herrlisheim 12451450, CP Bn Kappes 125144 CP 2 <sup>nd</sup> Co in RR Station 12851425, 5 53 Div CP and aid station 18651045, 25 105 MM guns from 18101125 to 18651185	S T M
1400	30	091400	Send up S-4 in Lt Tk to take care of necessary administrative problems		
	31		Div Chaplain visited CP enroute to Forward Aid Station		
	32		Clayton to Herrington: enemy vehicle firing from woods on your right flank		
	33		Herrington: enemy with MG along canal, any signs of enemy counter-attack between objective and town to north? Local small arms attack		
1420	34	091420	Rammer had advanced almost to southern edge of town. Verify if bridges are still in southwest part of town		
	35	091420	Local enemy air attacks over this CP, strafing at our Liaison plane		
	36	091438	About 1000 yards to our right is dismounted personnel advancing to east – from Herrington	H	
	37	091440	1 bridge blown, 1 okay – from CO to CC-B	H	
1445	38	091445	Inf are not our troops; the Col. Would like you to push a little more to the south – from CO-B to CO		
1518	39	091518	8 enemy tanks reported moving on road Offendorf to Herrlisheim - CO-B to CO/714		
	40	091530	Clayton to Herrington: CO wants Schmidt to get in position on north flank		
	41	091535	CO to Schmidt: are you up against the canal so that you can observe ground from Offendorf to Herrlisheim?		
1600	42	091606	We have two PWs; can you send someone to pick them up		
1607	43	091607	Send Doc. For light tanks		
	44	091656	Exec Officer returns to CP		
	45	091648	CO requests peeps for evacuation of cac		
1644	46	091740	PW reports dv. XC. Located 121141	S T H	
	47	091840	S-2 left for CC-B		

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>		
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
		48	091845	Flames noted; reported as Rohrwiller on fire	
		49	091900	1 assault gun and 4 tanks knocked out. Lt Manders and Pvt Sweeney evacuated	
		50	091945	S-2 returned from CC-B	
		51	091948	3 of CO-B called CO telling him to move 1 tank Co to hold Bailey Bridge. CO: one tank plat was forced from that position by AT fire	
		52	092015	CO called for 22 to reconnoiter route and establish liaison with adjacent unit	
		53	092040	Is the outfit you sent up to north firing at anything?	
		54		(Note): Resupply big problem because of enemy action	
		55		Answer to 092040: No	
		56	092055	The town of Rohrwiller is being attacked by enemy infantry of not too great strength from east	
		57	092056	Reconnaissance reports bridges out at 089130 and 09561540	M
2202	2204	58	092200	Reconnaissance has contacted A and B companies	H
2220	2222	59	092220	At present we are not maintaining outpost; we are keeping liaison between A and B companies, relayed from Rec Plat to CO	
		60	092234	Battalion action reported at 126161	M
		61	092236	CO wanted to know if there was a unit in between	
		62	092240	Baker Co is back in original area	
2021		63	092140	S-4 report on full tracked vehicle in third echelon or casualty due as of 1200 by 1300 daily	S-4
		1	100100	Exec Officer contacted S-4 in regards to resupply of companies	
		2	100130	S-4 reports Rohrwiller is definitely occupied by the enemy	
		3	100135	Ex Officer informs CC-B of the above	
		4	100200	Liaison Officer from CC-B	
		5	100257	Liaison Officer from CC-B	
		6	100257	Liaison Officer leaves for CO tank	
		7	100415	S-2 left for CC-B	
0452		8	100430	Urgent message from CC-B to CO: Friendly troops will be approaching you from the east, caution your troops not to fire	
		9	100445	Liaison Officer ordered to return, plan is changed	
		10	100515	S-2 returns from CC-B with orders, leaves for CO tank	
		11	100740	S-2 called for by CO had not arrived at designated meeting place	
		12		(Info only) Infantry of 56 falling back from Herrlisheim. Tanks falling back to second bridge at Rohrwiller and to fire into south end of Herrlisheim. 56 suffering heavy casualties	
		13	100610	Companies given fire mission vicinity Herrlisheim by CO. S-2 must have contacted CO as this is the info he was dispatched with	
		14	100759	Liaison Officer back at CP	
		15	100800	CO at CP with S-2, CO calls C/Co and A/Co, gives them positions to hold	

TIME		SER	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC	ACTION TAKEN
IN	OUT	NO	DATED		
		16	100800	CO & CO of D/92 form plan for moving tanks out of area in case bridges at Rohrwiller – Prearrange signal “I am ready.”	
		17	100825	CO calls CC-B on telephone. S-3 gets plan to hold Herrlisheim	
		18	100840	CO leaves for CC-B and then to tank	
		19	100900	S-3 at Battalion CP to check on vehicular casualties	
		20	101000	Plans for holding Herrlisheim and moving	
		21	101110	Approx 50 enemy dug in with MGs from 101144 to 107630. Enemy OP at 102125 and 096130	M S
		22	101130	5 enemy tanks at 137152, fired at by our elements	
		23	101135	2 88s at 133157, men still around 147157	M S
		24	101145	5 tanks reported moving into east of Herrlisheim	S T
		25		Notes: smoke concentrations laid along railroad to east of Herrlisheim	
		26	101305	4 enemy tanks reported by artillery observation at 124138	M S
		27	101355	Ex O and Comm O with crew of S-3 halftrack, moved forward to get in better communications with front	
		28	101405	Report Phelan hit – Major Fields going forward	
		29	101410	Send one of your light tanks into town (Herrlisheim) to evacuate Col Phelan – intercepted	
1430		30	101430	5 enemy tanks at 124135, 7 enemy tanks at 131152. Send word to 3 to take over until 5 gets there	
		31		Sacs and S/Sgt T. A. Poole of D Company killed evacuating Col Phelan. S/Sgt Maurice Sellers injured in action at the case job	
		32	101500	Medics pinned down by patrol east of Rohrwiller	H
1504		33	101445	Bunker located 139137 has 1 75 MM gun, 1 50 MM gun	S T M
		34	101400	Ex O ordered to resume command of all forces in Herrlisheim	
		35	101430	Ex O at CC-B for instructions and orders to leave CC-B at 1500	
		36	101440	Maj Avery calls Capt Boone to consolidate position in town; plan fires and contact all troops of his command	S
		37	101500	Maj Fields goes to forward Aid Station with S-3 halftrack. Medics are held down by patrol rifle and heavy MG fire. Maj Fields goes out to light tanks D/714	
		38	101525	Maj Fields leaves for A/Co tanks in light tank to look over situation	
		39	101530	Intense AT fire from east of Rohrwiller; light tanks unable to get through for evacuation	
		40	101520	Maj Fields returns and leaves for CC-B	
		41	101630	Maj Fields at CC-B for orders and plan	
		42	101920	Maj Fields leaves CC-B to establish a forward CP behind A tanks	
		43	102000	Maj Fields gives Capt Boone order to withdraw from Herrlisheim; artillery concentrations to cover withdrawal when Boone is ready. Infantry to leave first, followed by tanks. Capt Boone ordered to work out details within town for withdrawal	



<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	44	102015	Maj Fields calls Capt Herrington, explains situation, tells Capt Herrington to come see him. During this period from 1600 the following has taken place: vicinity CP at Hanhoffen shelled 1600, S-2 goes to CC-B, meets with Maj Fields about 1730 – 1800 – S-2 makes arrangements for guides at new assembly area, posting them personally. Then S-2 goes to forward CP arriving at 2230, reporting his action to Maj Fields	
	45	102330	Capt Boone contacted, explains to Maj Fields operation of withdrawal is going to take a little longer than expected	
	46	102335	B/119 Engr Plat Leader and two men contacted at forward CP mission to get pontoon bridge	
	47	102335	Message that Col Phelan is evacuated; light tank will be passive soon	
	48	102340	Capt Schwartz, Comm, takes Snu 8 (sic) to B/119 CP then to medics to see Col Phelan	
	1	111000	Notes from Liaison Officer: B/Co reverts to 56 Inf at once, A/714 attached to Div Artillery available for firing artillery missions. B/714 will replace A/714 in positions. Lt Lehmen (B/Co) report to Col Ingram. After B is in position, "A" move to vicinity of 714 assembly area. Prepare for further move by Div Artillery. Capt Harrington to Col Behr, Div Artillery for instructions at once. Send reconnaissance with 92 to vicinity Souttlenheim, alert reconnaissance and have Taylor report to Maj Avery for routes and areas in vicinity. Repel counterattack from north, northeast, east and southeast. Report on personnel vehicular casualties immediately. Unit commanders meeting CC-B 1330, overlay submitted showing exact location of casualties, tanks, location of Hq Co. Tanks evacuated by type.	

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**NOTE: the source document at 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Museum is missing the pages for entries for serial number 2 on 11 January to serial number 7 on 14 January.**

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	8	141620	Col Bromley left CP	
	9	141700	CO returned from CC-B	
1700	10	141700	Maj Fields notified that B Co be alerted for duty with 79 <sup>th</sup> . Capt Harrington ordered to report to CO 314 Inf Regt at Achzwiller (verbal)	Co A
	1	150000	CO left for CC-B	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>		<u>ACTION</u>	
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
1000		2	150600	Received VI Corps Issue No. 456	
		3	151240	CO returned from CC-B	
	1400	4	151300	Overlay Enemy Situation sent to Companies	T
		5	151600	FO from 494 FA at CP, plan to be in effect at 2400	
		6	151430	Message to all companies on expected issuance of order to evacuate	T
		7	151135	CO calls CC-B for information	
		8	151645	CO leaves for CC-B	
		9	151645	Co Cos meeting on return of CO, alert Cos	T
		10	151700	CO calls, message of meeting incorrect, time 1900	T
		11	152030	CO returns from CC-B	
		12	152025	FO for attack at 160200 given by CO, notes as follows (see Div FO): detail fire positions for A Co, direct support of engineers at bridge site , AG and Mortar under Capt Harding	
		13	152145	Message from CC-B on gun direct firing close into Rohrwiller	
		14	15245	Capt Schwartz and Capt Harrington dispatched to CP 119 Engrs for info on location	
		15	152000	B/119 reported they were fired on by weapon of unknown cal from approx. south of 85 to 90 deg, from their location at 10-19.3	
		16	152130	Recon patrol under Lt Taylor ordered to recon that area for enemy gun position at 2130	
		17	152347	1 recon patrol returned. No enemy gun pos. loc. Returned at 0215	
		1	160120	79 Div starts artillery diversionary concentration	
		2	160155	Recon patrol returned, no enemy gun positions found	
		3	160200	Liaison Officer from CC-B	
		4	160530	CO and Exec departed for tank positions	
		5	161008	FO thinks there is a regiment opposing them	
		6	161010	Charlie received small arms fire	
		7	161012	CO called Exec, telling him to take over in their present position while the CO returns to Forward position to help out	
		8	161015	I am going to have Rammer readjust his lines, cover way of his movements with your fire 0 Co from CC-B	
		9	161016	Direct your CO to readjust his bridgehead to include A C phase line 1 - CC-B to 56 Inf	
		10		Rammer is readjusting his line along checkpoint 1. Enemy forming for counterattack to left of his position, est strength 1 Regt. Cover their reorganization with artillery fire	
		10	161021	Our extreme right element reports friendly artillery falling on friendly doughs to his front. He also has some casualties and no means of evacuation.	
		11	161024	From CO: have FO correct. Have our right unit to cover doughs with fire.	

TIME		SER	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC	ACTION
IN	OUT	NO	DATED		TAKEN
		12	161026	Have you any means of sending down to A pos. to pick up 3 casualties	Med
		13	161028	I am coming in for a minute, send peep to meet me	
		14	161100	Can you have power tanks to go to checkpoint A to pick up casualties. Have many wounded – Rammer/56	
		15	161102	Will send 5 more lights – CO-B	
		16	161105	300 yards from checkpoint A – 56 Inf	
		17	161105	Message sent to D/714 on above by CO-B	
		18	161106	Urgent message: impossible to hold position. Have suffered extreme casualties, have your S-3 report to this CP to advise - 92 to CO-B	
		19	161107	CO is on way down – from CO-B	
		20	161108	A/92 falling back followed by enemy. See if fire can be brought to bear on them	
		21	161115	Concentration fired by 92 75 AG	
		22	161116	7 casualties reported, A/714, 500 yards south of checkpoint A. Send evacuation	
		23	161117	Ex Officer informs A/714 3 tanks on the way	
		24	161140	A/714 suggests smoke screen for cover of consolidation of 56 Inf. Ex Officer calls for smoke to assist consolidation of 56 at and around checkpoint #5/ CO calls C/714 CO over to him	
		25	161210	Strafing AT fire (3 burst) on A/Co right flank from beyond intersection of railroad and road. Ex Officer calls Hq Co CO	
		26	161225	Big 6 orders push attack and get those bridges in. The broken bridge is now ready. Reports from adjacent unit indicate movement to west by our troops from point A. Is this true? CO of Bart's outfit is on the way to Bart. Deliver message at once – to CO CO-B	
		27	161259	Condition red	
		28	161259	56 Inf withdrawn to Rohrwiler, A remains in present location prepared to support 314 Inf Regt. Rest of unit relieved at your discretion, suggested under cover of darkness	
		29	161314	CO to Exec. Capt Magruder is going to meet CO at C Co. Exec take over in the meantime. Move up to intersection to meet me (CO to A)	
		30	161323	Exec called by CO to meet him at same intersection. C Co commander called too for this same meeting. Hq Co called to meet CO in vicinity of C Co. No vehicle available for CO Hq Co – instructions for him to stand by	
		31	161358	Send runner to Exec – Hq Co	
		32	161420	CO returned to CP	
1440		33	161200	Received S-2 I sum as of 161200 from CC-B	
1515		34	161515	3 enemy tanks painted white at coord 157159, also reported by Co A at intersection of railroad and road	S T M

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	35	161525	CO-B directed fire on location of 3 tanks. One tank from A/714 hit by fire from enemy tanks	
1530	36	161405	New issue Med tank has muzzle broken on 76 MM gun. Do not confuse with enemy tanks. Instruct troops under your control	S T
	37	161720	CO to CC-B for meeting	
	38	161750	CO called on telephone to have company commanders assemble	
	39	161830	Co A reports two tanks disabled by enemy fire at ark. A reported one man killed by AP fire at creek. CO returned from CC-B with verbal order. Notes: 170600 Task Force field move. 92 Cav moves to aid in putting in Treadway bridge at 2300 tonight. B and C Cos and one platoon A Co in assembly area behind Rohrwiller by 0500. At that time 56 Inf mounts tanks of B and C Cos. At 0600 C Co moves out with mission of seizing road and railroad intersection, not to pass further than railroad. B Co starts as soon as C Co clears Treadway bridge. One platoon of B Co swings immediately left and heads for trees near river, canal – Company proceeds to north side of railroad tracks, paying particular attention to edge of creek. Three enemy tanks in vicinity of road and railroad intersection and possibly tanks in factory. A Co one platoon at factory will on order take remainder of Inf (56) and mop up area in rear. On taking initial objective we proceed north with B Co and take factory site. C Co consolidates on road. Inf under control of tank Cos. Use in close support of tanks. Ride 6 doughs per tank. Caution infantry not to be afraid to fire from tanks into foxholes. Be prepared for counterattack from Herrlisheim and fire from creek that bulges in. D Co remains in CC-B reserve, one tank reports immediately with crew of two for infantry command vehicle. AG platoon assumes same position but not before 0600. Mortars be prepared to go into position at same time. Bailey Bridge (LD) – Mike Treadway Bridge – Oboe Junction Canal and Moder River – Peter Railroad and road junction – Queen Factory (2 <sup>nd</sup> Objective) – Tare Moder River – Xray      Railroad in general – Uncle Highway in general – Victor      Line of 45 & 714 – Yoke	
	1	170130	CC-B called on phone for CO to report to CP, change of plans expected	
	2	170200	CO commanders meeting ordered	S T
	3	170130	CO leaves for CC-B	
	4	170300	CO returns to CP	
	5	170300	Change of plan. Factory not to be taken. C to establish bridgehead at railroad. Force to take Herrlisheim. B to carry doughs. Task Force of	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
			45 to south part of Herrlisheim. C to protect north. A to cover west of town. B to cover west of town.
	6	170620	CO-B called CO on radio saying that Oboe was not in yet
	7	170635	Load immediately and move out to prearranged location. Cover B Co. Oboe can now get across
	8	170640	Oboe to CO: They say they lost equipment and we are getting it heavy
	9	170711	Clayton is at Oboe, Wilson has lost equipment, shelling very heavy at Oboe. Clayton holding line
	10	170714	C Co: I think they have direct fire on us
	11	170719	CO to C: Get tanks out before daylight
	12	170720	CO to A: Move out immediately, continue your mission without stopping on Clayton's flank
	13	170721	CO to B: Follow Harrington, get into town immediately. Clayton: Wilson says I am going to be like ducks
	14	170725	CO to CO B: Wilson has been down there all this time and says they have everything down there waiting for us and we have nothing to fight back. Can you put pressure on the position to the north and west of Mike. Hold back on Harrington. Harrington, move into forward position and get as much fire as possible on position. Clayton, move back to LD and keep as much pressure on those positions as possible. We have to keep those guns from going south. Lehman, stand by for movement up. Harrington, move back to woods. Can you get into position behind little brook and keep as much fire as possible on hill, unload your doughs. Harrington to woods. Clayton withdrawing to Mike. BN Co keeping fire on position
	15	170737	Exec to Mortar: Are you in position, can you lay on junction railroad and highway, rake hell out of it with MG for 5 minutes
	16	170740	B to C: Is there anything I can help you with in line of fire. They all pulled back to this side of bridge. CO has gone to CC-B
	17	170742	C Company calling for artillery fire and smoke along that railroad track
	18	170746	C to Exec: We are behind Mike. B to Exec: Bridge behind us is out
	19	170809	Lehman reports bridge to his rear out. Can we get men on. Check Lehman for coord of damaged equipment. Bridge you referred to is 1 or 2. The bridge referred to is No. 1. AT fire from our right front
	20	170825	B to Exec: Need some smoke between me and town. Exec: Can you shift your smoke halfway between bridge and town. B to Exec: Have we any foot troops out in front of our position? S-3 to Exec: B is still out there but shouldn't be to right of the road at all. South of the road
	21	170831	Exec to B: We are not supposed to have any troops south of road
	22	170832	Exec to C: Smoke at railroad and road intersection. Start firing, fire everything. Friendly troops coming into southern edge of town. CO to B: I think you're pretty well jammed up, spread out more and open

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
			up. CO to C: No. 1 is out, when you leave go up to No. 2 and go between two wet spots and go parallel to road. From mike you turn left, pour everything you got	
	23	170847	CO to A: Are you in position, send one unit up to vicinity of Harding's Big Boys and pour fire into town. CO to C: I think we're going to bust through on them. Harding, keep firing. Can you put anything into area just beyond Oboe	
	24	170849	C to CO: I'm putting half of what I've got in there now	
	25	170850	S-2 to C: Some of Nick's boys are coming in from west and east, be careful of your firing, watch identification	
	26	170852	Firing by our tanks stopped because of close proximity of 43 <sup>rd</sup>	
	27	170930	Capt Clayton asking for artillery on woods that does not show on map	
	28	170933	Capt Clayton reporting 100 short on artillery	
	29	170937	Maj Avery calling 6	
	30	170945	Exec to C: 6 has gone to CC-B for orders, conserve enough ammo for exploitation	
	31	170950	Exec to Mortar: Continue harassing fire up and down along railroad.	
			B to Exec: See vehicle dug in with Ant. Exec to B: Must be enemy	
	32	170954	C to Exec: Shift smoke about 50 yards. CO: Assemble Harrington, Lehman and Harding and start them on the road up here. Clayton, stay in place, as soon as Lehman clears you come along with my shell. Expedite – have S-4 get hold of 6 at higher hq	
	33	171000	CO: Cancel order for movement.	
	34	171008	B to Exec: 135160 - C Co calling for MG fire at those coord target. Men in open, may be AT in there. One tank from B receiving 75 MM fire. Drop a round of smoke in there, unit may be friendly	
	35	171015	C/714 to fire one tank MG at AT target so FO can adjust artillery, suspected AT in building to C/714 direct front	
	36	171025	Mortar Platoon established radio communication with Exec Off	
		171026	C/714 – right front	
	37	171026	CO calls Ex Officer to S-3, asks did you receive message to stand fast in present position. Ex Off says yes and we have complied	
	38	171030	S-4 getting trucks for re-supply	
	39	171040	Exec Off: Are you part of Nick? We have spotted what we believe to be an enemy armored vehicle in little woods south of large woods	
	40	171055	C/714 reports AT fire to Exec Off. Exec tells him to get artillery on it. C/714 tries to align FO on target. Ex Off checks position 1551160. Calls mortar smoke. Ex adjust report range 8100. CC-B calls for our CP, calls for 3. Get word to your people to watch their fires and to expect friendly troops in your direction, LO will bring full details. CO reports troops approaching from right rear. CO tries to check with CC-B	

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	41	171130	Battalion CP moving at coord 150170. Fired several shots AC. Message on troops moving sent to all Cos. Enemy light vehicles on road. Ask about pill boxes and factory; ask about smoke on AT. CO calls for 3 of CC-B. Troops from east of Lehman front headed west. C/714 has not had much AT fire lately, does not know whether positions are held but he has seen doughs out in front and enemy light vehicles on road headed north out of town. A/714 reports knocking out one AT Gun to front. About putting bridge in with Engineers, believes it possible with Inf screen. 10 given position and asks direction. CO to A/714: ask about moving platoon up to bridge site at creek. CO asks about doughs	
	42	171200	We can cover that area to south. Harrington can covert area to southeast of Bailey bridge. Harrington not able to see from present position, knows position from which he might be able to see areas southeast of Bailey bridge	
	43	171215	CO calls 56 Co Hq (A) contact. CO calls Hq Co, calls A to relay message	
	44	171217	10 A reference firing vicinity Hq Co. See if you can find out if heavy firing from that area	
	45	171220	Arrangements made for Inf to rejoin A Co tanks	
	46	171230	Message on heavy artillery fire in Hq Co area (CC-B from PW) do not sunfire position because it is good, dig deep	
	47	171233	CO calls C/714, asks if message on expected firing went through to Hq Co. CO asks if firing is heavy. A/714 replies that firing seemed to be heavier cal. than normal	
	48	171241	C to FO: see what we are firing at now? That was position of AT, doughs running around. FO ordered fire on them	
	49	171250	C to FO: there are quite a few enemy doughs in that vicinity	
	50	171251	C to CO: have you heard anything from Nick? CO to C: he is in that town the other unit is coming up on the east. Is anything north of the town friendly? Might be Edwards. CO to CC-B: there is something in vicinity that can't be identified	
	51	171254	CO-B: Enemy tanks reported vicinity of Offendorf. CO to FO: are we doing any firing? No, can you make out what the booming is up there? It is probably Nick on the way	
	52	171300	CO-B to CO: I checked, Edwards took off up that way, don't know exact location. Nick says one jerry in town and saw another withdraw. CO to C: I can't find out any info. Edwards can't be located. C to CO: doughs are in question	
	53	171304	B Co: one vehicle reported that he saw an M-4 north of town and they heard more	

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	54	171305	S-2 to CO: there are doughs with both Nick and Ed. CO to A: have you any info from up north – a short while ago I heard a warning to watch his burst. A to CO: in regards to last message, it is being sent to Hq Co through his unit	
	55	171314	Two tiger tanks just to east of Herrlisheim, 130145. CO to C: did those engineers check in with you? No but they may be a few hundred yards behind me. There has been some movement of doughs in area around Oboe. Haven't identified SP as yet, some identified as krauts. CO to Jenks: how are you coming, are you getting any incoming stuff	
	56	171327	Co contacted Hq Co asking if he did anything about vehicle reported going north. Answer no, but think we will get AT with next shot	
	57	171330	CO to Exec: have you the business for supply with you? Come over here and I will give you one	
	58	171331	S-2 to CO: if Harding needs apples I have a variety we can deliver. Exec to C: 1600 for a new load of apples. Exec to A: same message, Mac has some stuff in town that he's going to send out; I'll check later	
	59	171340	Exec to B: send a complete report back to Comd. I could use a cup of coffee. Exec: so could I	
	60	171348	FO to C: One of those tiger tanks reported knocked out where they were reported	
	61	171358	CO from Harding AT located 158176	
	62	171400	CO relayed message to all companies	
	63	171400	Exec calls Hq Co: can you fire at AT gun? Hq has gun under fire. C to B: asks about smoke around gun to front	
	64	171410	CO calls Exec or 3: get hold of 3 and order a platoon of Clayton's to move forward Oboe to see what is there, if there, check for dynamite on bridge. If nothing is there, hold position. Exec gives order	
	65	171420	To C/714: please have paddlefeet check bridge Mike	
	66	171423	CO Hq Co tries to call Exec. Message: two AT guns and three tanks at 158176 – Message to FO: Harding to adjust	
	67	171451	On the way, ask for sensing. Lost, reported 50 R & over, second 200 left range correct. 27 to Jenks: asks for...(illegible)..., ready to move unit. Artillery not available to smoke right flank	
	68	171445	AG drawing heavy cal. fire believed to be coming from approx. the Rhine. Passing 300 yards left	
	69	171455	From higher hq: Edwards reported approaching railroad and road intersection north of Herrlisheim	
	70	171455	Doughboy patrol already on way to Bailey Bridge	



<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
			<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
	71	171520	Platoons given permission to retire
	72	171520	C/platoon at Bailey Bridge drawing AT fire
	73	171521	Fire may be friendly, make withdrawal slow. May be force of Col Evans. Col Evans in vicinity of road and railroad crossing
	74	171525	Platoon of B alerted to move, report AT fire toward creek line, move to left of C/714. C/714 reports AT fire on his platoon
	75	171527	B/714 1 platoon to move forward, move to creek line
	76	171530	CO calls A/714, have you observed any AT fire from crossroads and railroad? A/714 reports enemy doughfeet retreating toward RR
	77	171531	C/714 receiving AT fire and MG (incoming)
	78	171532	Enemy retreating in front of A, right to left
	79	171533	B/714 to go forward
	80	171540	Now far up are Edwards' troops. AG asks permission to fire on factory
	81	171541	B calls C, asks if he has smoke ready to protect platoon
	82	171542	B 1 platoon at creek, has not received any AT fire as yet
	83	171545	CO orders fire on enemy from B/714
	84	171545	C reports enemy still dug in in unknown woods. Got several of them.
	85	171545	C received AT fire from railroad, shot up creek and explosives stores went off
	86	171545	Enemy vehicles in building in town, ask permission to fire from B and C companies
	87	171550	Enemy vehicle reported coming out from town with flag and Inf behind it
	88	171550	B Co firing at tank in woods, did not see enemy vehicle and doughs coming out of town
	89	171600	No. 1 bridge is into CO, CO to CC-B: I'm beginning to think we can support that. About 50 krauts in area. Are friendly doughs with you? Direct fire support. See tanks in north edge of town, must be Nick's.
	90	171607	C to move up to support doughs. B will be warned to move up in direct support. A to support from his angle. Jenks to 5: request permission to withdraw to mortar position for night firing
	91	171619	5 checked companies on ammo
	92	171626	CO to C: move two platoons up to Oboe, prepare to cover Engineers who are assembling in Oboe's rear. Enemy using quite a few flares. CO to B: can you get up top vicinity of Oboe?
	93	171629	CO to A: keep kraut paddlefeet and pick targets in area. CO to C: be careful of intersection of two streams. C to B: clear of bridge. This is signal on which B moves out
	94	171640	CO to C: keep your eyes peeled for hostile vehicle. CO to A: keep your eyes peels for hostile vehicle. CO to CO-B: shells are out, don't seem to be drawing any artillery. Doughs are not coming in yet. More artillery falling now. CO to Exec: have Jenks remain in his present position

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>		<u>TAKEN</u>
	95	171651	Exec to Jenks: stay in present position for northern protection. CC-B to B: be careful of creek. CO to A: C is getting AT fire from intersection of railroad and ...(indecipherable) ... CO-B to CO: FO reports things look pretty good	
	96	171658	CO to CO-B: we have received AT fire, am moving position at present ... (indecipherable)...	
<i>(source document omits page with serial numbers 97 through 120 on the 17<sup>th</sup>)</i>				
	121	171826	CO calls A/714 to get in position for all around defense. A/714 and Hq Co working together and will coordinate movement to north (old assembly area)	
	122	171835	CO/714: let me know when all your men are past checkpoint Mike	
	123	171836	One tank out from C/714 from artillery. Crew shaken up, no casualties	
	124	171840	CO/714 calls CO/56 for infantry protection for B & C companies	
	125	171905	Orders received from S-3 to pull AG tanks back to assembly area except one platoon to guard & support bridge. B/714 to back up to canal and hold doughs to outpost tanks	
	126	171932	CO arrived at CP from front	
	127	171935	Hold up on your activities C is coming back to original position except one platoon can be supplied there. 6 is here, he wants all B forward to come back to the CP position and A Co to be notified that they are to come back	S-4
	128	171946	56 Inf to 714: CO of unit on our left wants to know if we have any vehicles across Mike	
	129	171947	No vehicles on other side of Mike	
	130	171955	All companies in proper place, you may start your job	S-4
	131	171945	CO left for CO-B	
	132	172000	Smith stays with parent unit	
	133	172015	Condition red	T
	134	172025	CO to 2: get hold of 5 and tell him to post Clayton and Lehman before you move out this morning	S T
	135	172100	Exec and Liaison Officer arrived at CP	
	136	172130	CO to CO-B	
	137	172200	C/714 reports platoon left to guard bridge not outposted with tanks (relayed to CO)	
	138	172230	CO tells C/714 to pull platoon back to Rohrwiller until doughs for outpost are furnished by infantry	
	1	180050	Asst S-3 CC-B calls message to assemble Cos at our CP for meeting	
	2	180200	B/119 Engineers calls. Tank recovery vehicle of your unit will not be used	

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	3	180130	Company Cos assembled for meeting at CP	
	4	180250	CO arrives at CP	
	5	180300	Situation: 43 and 17 Inf are in southern end of Herrlisheim, not in contact (reported they have 300 prisoners)	
	6		Division is putting in bridge south of Herrlisheim. 56 <sup>th</sup> plus one company of tanks move to vicinity of Rohrwiller, France. 23 <sup>rd</sup> south of Herrlisheim – 0400 jumps off on attack of Herrlisheim with Drusenheim as objective. In conjunction with CO-B, CO-B attacks today to establish a bridgehead and follow the 23 <sup>rd</sup> to seize and hold high ground. 714 <sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion is in Corps Reserve but will support the attack with two companies and supporting weapons. One company 714 attacked to 92 Cav to assist the attack. We move on orders and be prepared to attack to 0600. Scheme of Attack: 1 Co here to support by fire; 1 Co here C/714 to be attached to 92nd. This attack will not go forward until 23 <sup>rd</sup> goes past our front, we may take up positions before them. A/714 to support from woods (armored attack from south in vicinity of 23 <sup>rd</sup> ) (23 <sup>rd</sup> may be delayed). A/714 to reconnoiter a firing position for 1 platoon. CO-B 2 Civ troops abreast plus 56 <sup>th</sup> . C/714 to fire and maneuver in same area as today to occupy enemy. Honey – 23 Tank Battalion same code names as before. Alert your companies to be alerted to move on two hours' notice.	
	7	18010	S-2 goes to C/714 and together to CO-B for classification of dispositions	
	8	180510	D/714 to dispatch two light tanks to Rammer CP (Forward)	
	9	180530	D/714 to be in CO-B reserve, have them check into CO Channel	
	10	180530	23 <sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion not to move, waiting of classification of situation; expect 23 <sup>rd</sup> to be delayed	
	11	180615	C/714 has no FO as yet	
	12	180630	494 FA sending one up	
	13	180600	At 0630 enemy attacked our position. 0730 two companies of infantry attached	
	14	180820	LO reports situation: two counterattacks on at Hattern and one at Soufanheim. Counterattacked by tanks supported by Infantry – results unattainable	
	15	180815	H hour is 0900 ---	
	16	180700	Reconnaissance Platoon Cpl reported for instructions. S-2 advised	
	17	180715	Message received that 23 <sup>rd</sup> had two plans, one to attack Herrlisheim and one east of Herrlisheim	
	18	180835	CO calls CC-B 5	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
			<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
	19	180840	CO clarifies order that companies will be in position by 0930. Runners dispatched with clarification
	20	180850	S-2 leaves with LO for B Co to alert them to move
	21	180845	LO reports that C will go back to position past bridge and will be followed by B/714. Co A and A Gun take position of yesterday
	22	180945	Exec O in position at Rohrwiller, contacts 56 <sup>th</sup>
	23	180945	Exec O calls B/714 if they are ready to follow C/714 into position
	24	180955	CO calls Exec O: check with Hq Co if there is anything going on up north
	25	180957	Ex calls CO Hq Co – no contact
	26	181001	Relays through A Co – situation quiet
	27	181005	A Co position quiet
	28	181020	CO calls C/714 – message
	29	181031	C/714 calls CO – message from CO CC-B. Will deliver
	30	181032	Enemy doughfeet in vicinity of Oboe's bridge side
	31	181045	56 calls CC-B: Things are moving
	32	181045	A/714 calls CO: Right element has seen number of enemy infantry near railroad moving north
	33	181055	CC-B: Do you have anything to report. CO not in vehicle, wants report from CC
	34	181105	CC meeting with CO CC-B, getting plan and instructions
	35	181109	CC calls 5, asks what C/714 is doing
	36	181110	A/714 to CO on message: CO says to fire at enemy doughs
	37	181111	CO asks if C/714 has moved as yet
	38	181116	CO to Tank: tell Exec O to get on radio
	39	181117	Exec O to get coordinates for artillery fire. A/714 reports enemy doughs and SP at great range
	40	181125	CC-B calls 23 <sup>rd</sup> for location
	41	181125	Exec O calls Hq Co for fire on doughs and SP
	42	181130	Is anybody at Mike – yes and also at Oboe but hot spot north of Oboe will have to be taken care of soon
	43	181145	A – stay range of 3000 yards out beyond Q – see men moving back and forth on foot and bicycles. Enemy tank in Smith's sector, all taken under fire
	44	181150	CO to Exec O, asks A if he can observe friendly mortar fire in vicinity of Queen, also get me azimuth of enemy activity
	45	181152	How is activity in your sector? We spotted enemy tank to our direct front, fired on it and it disappeared into the woods
	46	181204	A Co observed friendly mortar fire on Queen. Enemy tanks – azimuth - 2400 from A position, range 3200
	47	181220	CO to 714: Have you any news of Honey. Honey is busy somewhere south of Yoke

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>		<u>TAKEN</u>
	48	181227	A to 5: In area before reported – a team of horses and some wagons were seen	
	49	181230	Mortar fire is being put on that area, can A observe	
	50	181231	It is reported that wagons and enemy vehicle are going back and forth, azimuth 3200	
	51	181235	Mortar platoon: concentration on factory	
	52	181239	Reported that one light boy hit with AT (message not identified)	
	53	181243	A to Exec: should my right position have to worry about enemy getting into his position	
	54	181244	Exec to CO: Is Honey in vicinity of Queen. Exec to A: No, A Co spotted vehicle just north of Queen, directed to fire on it	
	55	181248	Hq Co to Mortar: last concentration you were over target 100 yards. Fire on factory again. Assault to Exec: Assault receiving smoke, can it be identified as ours. The smoke was from right to left to our immediate front. Activity too damn quiet. Enemy activity to Schmidt's front, believe our fire is harassing them	
	56	181316	CO called Exec to come to his tank	
	57	181325	Report: krauts crossing over into Harrington's area; verify. Major reports: krauts crossing into your area, can you verify. A to CO: I have spoken to right and left positions, they have noticed nothing, will re-alert. CO to A: check with Hq Co, Harrington reports negative but is checking further	CC-B
	58	181334	Report: crossing to be at junction of canal and river	
	59	181334	CO to A: Meyer apologizes, it was a mistake, maintain alert, no report from friendly unit (314 Inf) but they are alerting their units	
	60	181426	CO to Mortar: throw about ten rounds north of Queen	
	61	181432	Co A: Schmidt firing on enemy tank	
	62	181435	CO to S-2: Call higher hq and find out how Honey and Mike are coming. S-2 to CO: called higher hq, no info; patrol has been dispatched for	
	63	181448	CO to A: your mission remains the same. B goes in to your right	
	64	181525	Report from right and center positions, enemy tanks and vehicles have been firing	
	65	181532	Are you laying artillery along creek? No, but should be. Put concentration 1446165, supposed to be 50 enemy there	
	66	181607	Condition red	
	67	181615	Do not advance. Clayton's orders changed	
	68	181630	Keep enemy activity under observation, keep up fire	
	69	181632	Left unit says activity seems to be above town and towards the woods	
	70	181650	A to Exec O: 143160 – Foster saw a vehicle towing gun into position, it was taken under fire and thought hit. But request artillery on	

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			<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
			position. Artillery put on position. Foster adjusting. Have you heard the song "Going Home"? Have Harrington get in touch with Benefactor. Everyone else report home. One unit of Harrington to remain. The rest to come home
	71	181730	CO arrived at this CP
	72	181745	Exec O arrived at this CP
	73	181745	This force put in Division reserve
	74	181840	Report this Hq when Tank Platoon has been coordinated with defending "L" company 314
	75	182356	CO
			Counterattack on Rohrwiller, one platoon sent to Rohrwiller, C Co sent to east edge of town to form defense. Put out listening post in front of your tanks, D Co to be in with C Co. 56 <sup>th</sup> fighting in Rohrwiller
	76	182357	Small arms ammo needed, enemy is retreating. Schmidt of A Co thought he may be getting bazooka fire. CO to B: correction – your company is to remain until Lehman receives his instructions
	77	182310	They are retreating back to second bridge
	78	182319	Krauts still in area around A Co, outpost guards left
	79	182320	56 <sup>th</sup> reports no heavy AT stuff in attack, all light arms. They will send men out to Schmidt's tank. A Co to move to east of town and help establish line
	80	182323	C Co forming line
	81	182327	B Company going into position
	82	182330	Kresge: we are in position, firing
	83	182331	CO watch on our units in vicinity of Mike. Kresge called Schmidt, says things are quieting down a bit. Enemy was about 35 yards away, isn't certain whether enemy is cleared out or laying down. CO to Schmidt: as to whereabouts of Love paddlefeet. CC to 56: tell tanks to protect length of bridge while infantry reorganizes. CC asks Inf to take Schmidt's platoon in to consideration
	84	182335	D Company made contact with Schmidt and are sending out a patrol
	85	182345	Cook in position now
	87	182347	Everything quiet there but will hold it. Line is established
	88	182350	Wilson and Engineers are being sent up
	89	182351	Serv Co reports they are taking heavy artillery shelling
	90	182354	D Co tied in with Harrington. Serv reports very heavy stuff. Recon called saying that some Krauts wanted to surrender
	91	182359	Paddlefeet are being posted near Schmidt's tanks
	92	182359	Prisoners started running, tanks were called upon to resume firing
	1	190006	A to CO: A tied in with Cook and Clayton. Kresge can be observed throwing the stuff out

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	2	190007	Let us know when tanks control the road. Krauts were coming along southwest of road	
	3	190010	Kresge doing OK, ordered to sweep area southeast of road	
	4	190011	CO to CC-B: Heavy artillery falling vicinity of my Serv Park, man wounded, don't know on which large cal.	
	5	190012	One man, no vehicle casualties in Serv Co. Reports from PW force was 3 Co in strength and retreating across bridge in question	
	6	190017	More MPs to be sent down to pick up PWs	
	7	190023	The truck driver ran into bridge, it will be gotten down to you	
	8	190027	Every few minutes artillery will fire WP on foot bridge north of Herrlisheim	
	9	190029	CC-B wants us to stay in his net and stay in our net, too	
	10	190030	Ammo is on its way, notify us when it arrives	
	11	190040	Inf to CC-B: have Wilson send dynamite	
	12	190050	Kresge close to road, firing occasionally, ordered to cease firing but to remain alert, needing ammo	
	13	190051	CO to 56 <sup>th</sup> : Kresge is coming in to see you	
	14	190102	56 <sup>th</sup> calling for medics	
	15	190010	56 <sup>th</sup> to S-2 CC-B: Have valuable PW, get him off my hands as quickly as possible	
	16	190530	B/714 attached to 79 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to form Force. Lehman to attack. CO B/714 back at CP with orders to attack with 79 <sup>th</sup> on Drusenheim at dawn	
	17	190745	LO from CC-B: 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion 312, 36 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div is moving in to take outpost positions around Bischweiller	
	18	190740	Message from CC-B: enemy of unknown strength reported crossing canal 108-142. Be prepared to move as necessary	
	19	190750	C/714 rogered for message above, D/714 rogered for message above, A/714 by platoon advised of both above messages	
	20	190831	S-3 CC-B response to question on Info & orders – remain where you are, no further orders	
	21	190840	S-4 to resupply in small arms	
	22	190830	56 <sup>th</sup> asked for Info – no new Info; receiving mortar fire	
	23	190830	Platoons A/714 informed of enemy situation, report no activity in this sector	
	24	190915	German vehicle traveling north	
	25	191221	Co B now has three 76s and nine 75s with them	
1221	26	191414	CO left for CC-B	
	27	191415	Friendly planes in the air	
	28	191530	CO returned from CC-B	
	29	191500	Enemy plane over area	

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	30	191430	CO calls and prepares Battalion for movement to south of Bischweiller; S-2 returns from CC-B with dispositions	
	31	191445	S-3 goes to Bischweiller to reconnoiter for CP area	
	32	191450	Company commanders meet with Capt Boone to receive instructions Hqs – C/D Cos. A informed of disposition in Rohrwiller	
	33	191550	CO meets with CO Co C and gives him disposition of his company to outpost line from CC-A to reinforce Recon Seven	
	34	191610	CC-B calls and informs CO that enemy tanks Mark VI are crossing creek; does not know how they are getting across	
	35	191620	CO goes to CC-B	
	36	191630	Change to orders for companies	
	37	191645	CC-B informs Exec O that there are 20 enemy tanks across creek	
	38	191645	C/714 delayed in pulling into positions, D/714 alerted through Co CO on situation	
	39	191700	Battalion leaves CP and moves to factory site south of Bischwiller CC-B calls for Battalion to relay to D Co, 79 <sup>th</sup> Inf to blow bridge and hold position	
	40	191730	Closed in new CP	
	41	191745	Message received that enemy doughs are crossing bridge at Mike	
	42	191705	CO calls Exec O and tells him to meet him at old CP at Hanhoffen	
	43	191915	Exec O calls C/714 for him to tie into 92 troops	
	44	192005	CC-B to LO: Have your dog prepared to wipe out all Krauts crossing Mike	
	45	192007	Be on alert and watch out for Krauts crossing Mike	
	46	192015	D of 92: Southeast corner of woods, 700 meters CP of unit on left; point your dog to contact unit on right	
	47	192023	56 <sup>th</sup> Inf: Continuous flare activity to our left	
	48	192026	Keep Mike under continuous observation for fire	
	49	192034	LO from CC-B: Dog is going into position	
	50	192116	56 <sup>th</sup> to CC-B: Lights have arrived	
	51	192118	CC-B to 56 <sup>th</sup> : 56 have made contact with unit on right	
	52	192125	from D Co: All quiet on Mike	
	53	192135	Have LeBouf get Major's combat pants and bring them down	
	54	192158	From D to 5: Situation – two companies hold woods that are on three sides of my position	
	55	192210	Patrol returned from mission at Mike; mission accomplished	
	56	192225	CC-B to S-3: Check entire outfit each hour	
	57	192335	No change in D's situation except his company was split in two parts, one to north and one to south of town	
	58	192345	A Company reports no change in situation	
	59	1982346	C Company reports everything OK	
	60	192400	CC-B leaves location, this Hqs not advised of movement directly	



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	1	200530	Counterattacked by about 150 men, launched tanks. C/714 drew some fire AG; attack repulsed; 17 enemy casualties counted	
	2	200530	NOTES: Drusenheim surrounded. 714 <sup>th</sup> supports 134 Inf Regt which holds line; morale high, 314 <sup>th</sup> 79 <sup>th</sup> morale unsteady, A & D Companies steady. C/714 move from woods north to be prepared to repulse counterattack. Battalion will be spread over a wide area so companies will have to act independently. Companies know no billets, be ready to move on 2 minutes notice. Companies must be on alert. We may be relieved this afternoon or tonight. Counter-attack expected tonight. Drusenheim is definitely in enemy hands, our mission is mainly supporting. CO commanders go over in minute detail positions, plans and moves in case of attack. 105 AG Platoon to be attached to A Co. For direct support companies will remain in contact through this Hq	
	3	201410	Platoon of A Co reports light fire (Foster)	
	4	201411	D Co reports artillery fire	
	5	201430	CO left for 143 Inf CP	
	6	201530	CO returned from 143 Inf CP	
	7	201610	Order from CO to get ready to move CP	
	8	201832	Moved CP from southeast Bischwiller to northeast Bischwiller	
	9	202112	D Co reports moving from Rohrwiller	
	10	202123	D Co reports low visibility but not action	
	11	202230	C Co reports big apples coming in and requests leave for withdrawal beyond stream	
2324	12	202322	Report immediately any activity on your front; negative reports hourly on the hour	T
2325	13	202323	Report when in new locations	Co C
	1	210005	Intermittent MG fire on adjoining right unit for 5 minutes around midnight. Unit to be relieved at 1400. NOTES: Left location at Bischwiller. Arrive at Brumath, set up CP	A to CO
	1	221030	Asst Div Commander 36 <sup>th</sup> Inf visited CP	
	2	221100	Chief of Staff, 36 Inf, visited CP. Battalion attached as reserve to 36 on 20 minute alert. Stand by on 2 <sup>nd</sup> echelon maintenance. "B" is attached to 79 <sup>th</sup> ; you are on 20 minute alert	
1040	3	212400	Received two overlays from 36 Inf Div and G-2 Periodic Report	
	4	221740	26 enemy tanks reported moving west at coordinates 1231532. Firing 8-inch How at them. Alert 1 Co. "A" alerted	
	5	221925	Alert status of A Co rescinded	A Co
	1	230230	Heavy artillery shells fall on Brumath lasting until daylight	
	2	231300	Company commanders meeting called	T
	3	231350	Company commanders meeting	

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<u>IN</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>	
		<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>		
	4	231412	CO and Lt Jenks left for reconnaissance	
1900	5	231800	Overlay enemy situation	S T M
	1	241000	Unit alerted to move vicinity Strasbourg	S T
	2	241230	Unit to move (time pushed up to 1400)	S T
	3	241235	Movement order cancelled until further notice	S T
	4	241500	LO from CC-B with orders for billeting parties to proceed to new assembly area	
	5	241530	Billeting parties from all companies leave Brumath	
	6	241615	Order from CC-B by LO: no movement contemplated until 1200 25 Jan 45	
	7	241630	Billeting parties sent for to return to Brumath	
	8	241630	Cos notified of above order	T
	9	241630	CO and Exec out of CP to look over area	
	1	251300	Order received to move at once. Cross IP at Stephansville 1400	S T
	2	251545	Closed in CP, set up in schoolhouse at Eckwersheim	
	3	252100	"A" Co notified to set up outpost to maintain same until 260900 at which time "B" Co takes over	A Co
	4	252100	Overlay of outpost sent to "D" Co to set up outpost at Barstett	D Co
	5	252110	LO arrived from CC-B	
	6	252120	Sgt Wright sent out on route reconnaissance	Rcn
	1	261100	Sgt Wright sent out to recon bridges over canals	Rcn
	2	261110	CO left for liaison with French Army	
	3	261130	Exec left for rear echelon	
	4	261300	S-3 and S-2 left for Div	
	5	261500	S-3 and S-2 returned with secret plans	
	6	261600	Company commanders sent out on recon. CO returned	
	7	261615	Exec Off returned from rear echelon	
	8	261830	Col Bromley visited this CP	
	9	261830	Company commanders returned from recon	
	10	262045	Commanders of Hq, A, B, C, Assault Platoon and Mortar Platoon met to discuss plans	
	1	271000	CO left for CC-R	
	2	271800	CO returned from CC-R	
	0830	1 280900	Overlay – results of recon. Map Brumath 1/25000	M S T
1300		2 280830	Overlay of mines, 31 DIA as of 25 Jan 45 1/20000	M S
1000		3 282000	Overlay: Order of Battle 1/100000 En. Bit. 12 AD	M S
		4 280900	Plan A in effect. CC-B to set up forward CP in Eckwersheim, arrangements made by this Hq	
	0910	5 280910	Message to all companies on Battalion alert status, continues with maintenance etc	

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	6	281030	Meeting of company commanders and staff. Plan A discussed in detail	
	7	281430	S-2 leaves for Div Hq to G-2 Section	
	8	281630	S-3 leaves for Hq 56 Inf to make arrangements for tank infantry training	
	9	281740	S-3 to CC-B, meets with CO and S-3 CC-B to discuss plans for tank infantry training	
	1	290900	A/714 to 56 Inf for training	
	2	290930	C/56 at B/714 for training	
	3		NOTES: Period from 29 January 45 to 1 Feb 45 spent in tank infantry plans and training	
	1	012400	Warning order received on movement	S T
0910	2	020400	See operations instruction	
1100	3	021100	Warning order: be prepared to move at 1800	S T
1300	4	021300	Be prepared to move at 1500	S T
	5	021315	LO from CC-B with order to cross IP 1500, no route or instructions	

## 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – OFFICERS ROSTER – JANUARY 1945

### Headquarters

Lt Col William J Phelan	Transferred to Hospital
Major Frederick P Field	Commanding, from Ex O 12 Jan 45
Major James M Boone	S-3 to Ex O, Capt to Major
Capt Herbert E Magruder	S-2 to S-3
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert C Kelly	Sv Co Commander to S-2
Capt Morris Schworts	Comm O
Capt John K Shipe	S-4
Capt Charles E Jenkins	Div GRO
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Joe C Carlson	S-1 from Trans Officer, Sv Co
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath	Liaison Officer

### Hq Co

Capt George Harding	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt	S-1 to attached Hq Co, SSO, GRO to Sv Co Commander
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William G Manders	Transferred to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor	Reconnaissance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harold A Bleeman	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othel T Parsons	Mortar Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James R Jenks	Assault Gun Platoon – Battlefield Appointment

### CO A

Capt Robert W Harrington	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt	Tank Platoon Leader

### Co B

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt James W Leehman	Commanding 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Capt
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arthur D Slote	Transferred to Hospital
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William E Goad	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Roy G Daniels	Transferred to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Charles Z Hisiger	Transferred to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler	Tank Platoon Leader – Battlefield Appointment
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Phipott	Tank Platoon Leader – Battlefield Appointment

**Co C**

Capt Charles C Clayton	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harolld S Landeu	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Dominic A Dolce	Transferred to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Richard P LaFrance	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William W Turley	Transferred to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt John W McDougal	Tank Platoon Leader – Battlefield Appointment

**Co D**

Capt William H Harridge	Transferred to Hospital
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt John C Cook	Transferred to Hospital
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William J Veness	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Abe H Traktman	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta	Tank Platoon Leader – Battlefield Appointment

**Sv Co**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt	Commanding
Capt John E Stuerwald	Battalion Motor Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Cesmir F Grochowski	Co Maintenance Officer & SSO, GRO, EBM
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer
WOJG George M Frost	Personnel Officer
WOJG Charles D Frazier	Motor Transportation Officer

**Medics**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Garfield S Barnet	Medical Officer – General Surgeon
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Leonard D Wentworth	Medical Assistant – MAC

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION CASUALTY REPORT for JANUARY 1945

### KIA

T/5 Robert K Backs, 37520007	Co D	Sgt Joseph B Guld, 33129889	Co A
Tec 5 Elmer F Tankersley, 33443889	Co B	Cpl Gordon R Roberts, 38300545	Co D
S/Sgt Thomas A Poole, 33215167	Co D	Tec 5 Walter L Snow, 15054414	Co D

### DOW

Pfc Richard P Meiring, 35423634	Co B	Sgt Jesse J Pittman, 34456576	Co B
Pfc Robert E Blocken, 35790556	Co C	Tec 5 Thomas F Johnson, 36429894	Co B

### WIA

Sgt Frank T Metzger, 13094665	Co A	Capt William H Harridge, 0-403185	Co D
Pfc Bill G DeHours, 37233728	Co C	Tec 5 David H DeOelle, 31094866	Sv Co
Tec 5 Edward J Buscavage, 32563449	Co A	Cpl Harold F Meyer, 35344378	Co A
Pfc Anthony J Alexander, 37235937	Co D	S/Sgt William P Attison, 32365859	Co A
Sgt Frank F Orlando, 32148619	Hq Co	Tec 5 John D Jacquinet, 37491310	Co B
Tec 4 Fred H Moss, 37233945	Co C	Pfc Herbert J Kramer, 36452279	Co A
Tec 5 Edgar M Drake, 35678364	Co A	Pfc Christopher E Carbone, 33451272	Co A
Pfc William M Spillett, 32526467	Co B	Pfc Oral Fisher, 37232573	Co A
Pvt Douglas L Crossman, 32576856	Co C	Pvt William E Fisher, 35448215	Co B
Pvt Richard J Adams, 35924118	Co B	Cpl Chester L Drake, 37524712	Co B
Sgt Paul R Hiller, 33341631	Hq Co	Pvt Thomas W Griffiths, 13110345	Hq Co
Cpl Otha E Collins, 34593946	Co A	Pfc Jose E Billelobos, 37458166	Co A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Charles M Hisiger, 01017785	Co B	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arthur L Slote, 01013815	Co B
Tec 4 Robert N Lazar, 33396774	Hq Co	Tec 4 Rayh B Leney, Jr, 34596170	Co B
Cpl Howard H Bleier, 32529160	Hq Co	Pfc Clifford J Sweeney, 1917688	Hq Co
S/Sgt George O Moss, 3642967	Co A	S/Sgt Joseph F Jaconetty, 36609982	Co D
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William G Menders, 01010085	Hq Co	Pfc Alvin Polen, 32799785	Co C
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William W Turley, 01012195	Cp C	Pfc Arthur B Anderson, 39192797	Sv Co
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Dominic A Dolce, 01017249	Co C	Tec 4 Edgar C Hoffman, 32255972	Co C
Capt Roberty W Harrington, 0372336	Co A	S/Sgt Maurice I Seller, 32091896	Co D
Lt Col William J Phelan, 0-16870	Bn Hq	Tec 5 Robert G Raymond, 36417394	Co B
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Roy G Daniels, 01018704	Co B	Pfc Walter R Bowers, 33573157	Co B
Sgt Donald F Harrington, 32659571	Co D	Sgt John Fekett, 35586258	Co D
Pfc Jess G Zamora, 39685208	Co D		

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION - AWARDS AND DECORATIONS – FEBRUARY 1945

### SILVER STAR

S/Sgt Robert C Mohney, 33393535 GO 18, Par I 12 Feb 45

### BRONZE STAR

Capt Charles C Clayton, 0446021 GO 13, Sec XI 1 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge, 01018190 GO 13, Sec XI 1 Feb 45  
Sgt Adrian O Lindquist, 37314664 GO 13, Sec XI 1 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Fred L Shelton, 36430492 GO 13, Sec XI 1 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Dominic A Dolce, 01017249 GO 13, Sec XII 1 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Richard P La France, 01017434 GO 13, Sec XII 1 Feb 45  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler, 02006358 GO 13, Sec XIII 1 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Wilman E Goad, 01013750 GO 15, Sec III 7 Feb 45  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Philpott, 02006359 GO 15, Sec III 7 Feb 45  
Major James M Boone, 01010726 GO 15, Sec IV 7 Feb 45  
S/Sgt Ward A Dodge, 32254407 GO 15, Sec IV 7 Feb 45  
Sgt George M Branson, 6931917 GO 15, Sec V 7 Feb 45  
Major William R Comfort, 0450264 GO 18, Sec VII 12 Feb 45  
Tec 4 George F Hood, 34596524 GO 18, Sec VII 12 Feb 45  
Cpl Joseph S Montgomery, 35449028 GO 18, Sec VII 12 Feb 45  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps, 02010536 GO 18, Sec VII 12 Feb 45  
Sgt Clifton C Roots, 38272111 GO 18, Sec VII 12 Feb 45  
Sgt Lyle E Staab, 37058480 GO 18, Sec VII 12 Feb 45  
Sgt George J Fedzora, 35588334 GO 18, Sec VIII 12 Feb 45  
Sgt Howard A Vance, 39192817 GO 18, Sec VIII 12 Feb 45

### CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Tec 4 Frank M Bagley, 35588759 GO 15, Sec VIII 7 Feb 45  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps, 02010536 GO 15, Sec VIII 7 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt, 01016006 GO 15, Sec VIII 7 Feb 45  
Pfc Fairy O Adcox, 34595904 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Arthur Arnold, 32019324 GO 15, Sec IV 7 Feb 45  
Tec 4 Raymond C Bailey, 35449628 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
Cpl Douglas E Berlin, 16133862 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
Tec 4 Max E Birnell, 35152185 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
Tec 4 Edward J Campbell, 32365506 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
T/Sgt George D Dalley, 32528492 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
S/Sgt Howard E Daniels, 32033310 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
Tec 4 Ralph J Davis, 34595955 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45  
Tec 5 Haig R Derderlan, 16148792 GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45

**714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION - AWARDS AND DECORATIONS – FEBRUARY 1945 (Continued)**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Tec 5 Thomas F Dugan, 39110339	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45
Tec 4 Charles A Fricker, Jr, 32366288	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45
Tec 5 Billy L Lucas, 35666583	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45
S/Sgt James A McGinness, 36169578	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45
Tec 5 Charles E Travelet, 33243252	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45
Tec 5 Clifford F Watts, 38319564	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45
Tec 5 Cooper C Wilson, 32366111	GO 15, Sec IX 7 Feb 45



## 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – NARRATIVE OF ACTIONS - FEBRUARY 1945

Following the move of 7 kilometers from Brumath, France to Eckwersheim, France, the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion now located in Eckwersheim, France remained on three-hour alert to be ready to counterattack any enemy thrust in the vicinity north of Strassburg. Prior to, and including 1 Feb 1945, the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion continued maintenance of vehicles and equipment and Tank Infantry Problems in the vicinity of Eckwersheim, France.

2 Feb 1945: At 2400, warning order was received from CC-B by L/O, to be prepared to move by 0800. The division will move to assembly area in vicinity of Selestat, France (7862) starting movement at night 2-3 Feb 1945 and prepare for operations in this area. Move by combat commands in order of CC-B, CC-R, and CC-A. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will remain an element of CC-B, additional units to include 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, 494 FA, D/92 Reconnaissance, B/119 Engineers, B/82 Medics, B/134 Ordnance, D/572 AA and one platoon 827 TDs. At 1100, order was received by 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion to be prepared to move by 1800 but changed ordering battalion to cross IP at 1500 with route of march on overlay. At 1350, the Battalion S-3 left for CC-B to coordinate movement from Eckwersheim. The Battalion moved out at 1400 2 Feb 1945, marched to Epfig, France, arriving 2245, march was without incident, weather clear. At 2245 the CO reported to CC-B for meeting. On 2 Feb 1945 at 2400, Major Field returned from CC-B with information that Battalion would be broken down into three task forces: task force Field, task force Boone (Ex Off 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion) and task force Norton. B/714 to go to TF Norton, A/714 to go to TF Boone, C/714 to remain with TF Field. The Battalion will march to assembly area north of Colmar, France prepared to exploit to the south. The route of march pointed out on the map by Major Field, TF Field to follow TF Norton. TF Field consists of Hq, Hq and Hq Co, C/714 – Co C/56 AIB; TF Boone, A/714, Co A/56 AIB; TF Norton, 56 AIB (Minus) plus Co B/714<sup>th</sup>.

3 Feb 1945: At 0300 the Battalion moved out from Epfig, France to an assembly area in the vicinity of Houssen, France, assembling on main road leading to Colmar, France. On 3 Feb 1945 at 0600 the forces received orders to move south to Colmar, France. At 0730, the Reconnaissance Platoon with Lt Taylor, as platoon leader, reported small arms firing and snipers in Colmar. A company commanders meeting was held at 0800 at road junction, 1 ½ mile north of Colmar. By 0900 the Battalion entered Colmar moving to south of town. Friendly infantry in canal (726-391) in fire fight. The Battalion had moved to the south of town crossing railroad (724-397) making contact with friendly infantry. Major Field ordered that the Assault Gun and Mortar Platoon take up firing positions at railroad (724-397) on edge of woods, south of canal and on left of Colmar-St Croix road. At 0930, it was reported that bridge across the canal was out, the bridge site receiving heavy mortar and artillery fire. At 1210, it was ordered that all vehicles would display cerise panels to identify friendly vehicles. Force Field's objective was at this time St Croix, France, south of Colmar (739-344). After moving the Assault Gun and Mortar Platoon into firing positions, Major Field reported two enemy tanks between his force and objective. Fire from the Assault Gun platoon was too far to the left, Major Field directing that it be moved 200 yards right so as to bring fire on enemy vehicles and personnel north of St Croix (733-365); hits were observed. The mortar platoon was ordered to lay fire on the road south of the bridge and walk it south on Colmar-St Croix road. Lt McDougal, C Co Platoon leader, had been alerted for preparations to move his platoon forward in the vicinity of bridge. A message from S-3, CC-B reported that PWs were taken by

friendly forces on the left of Force Field. Statements from PWs were to be effect that their unit had orders to withdraw. Force Field pushed forward vigorously toward objective, St Croix. The bridge at 725-392 was out; Major Field requested that engineers be sent forward for repairing of bridge. At 1312, message from CC-B, S-3, asked of Field if he needed additional air support, his reply was no. A message at 1420 from CC-B asked if engineers had arrived. Affirmative was given in answer to this message and also sending prisoners back today, however, did not come from this point. By 1600 one antitank gun had been captured in vicinity of bridge and the bridgehead established with no enemy resistance present. A message about 1910 from S-3 of the 714<sup>th</sup> asked of Clayton, CO Co C Force Field, information as to what action was taking place. The commanding officer at this time was at CC-B CP. Capt Clayton's reply to this message from S-3, 714<sup>th</sup> was that his company was in close support of friendly infantry beyond the canal. Clayton's company was located on north side of the canal, and he said that he had coordinated with the artillery officer for fire defense plan with battalion mortar platoon in general support of defense.

4 Feb 1945: At 2400, heavy artillery fire by enemy artillery, position undetermined, was falling in southern section of Colmar. Artillery fire, about three rounds every fifteen minutes all night, increasing around 0300 to about one round per minute. At 0530, a civilian reports an enemy CP, unidentified unit, at 7389344, an enemy ammunition dump at 73503469, one battery of enemy artillery at 74463479. This message was from CC-B. During the night, friendly infantry had been fired on by either artillery or antitank guns in the vicinity of south Colmar. Seven enemy artillery pieces or antitank guns were reported at 0700 on road 500 yards south of bridge, counter-fire had been directed at them. Undetermined activity in front of Force Field elements but from activity and sound, appeared to be enemy infantry digging in. At 0745, Capt Fairburn of the 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Commanding Officer, Co C, reported casualties as the result of enemy artillery in this vicinity and requested that medics be sent up for evacuation. The 714<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officer, Lt Heath, reported to Battalion CP at 0745 with the latest plan for commitment of Force Field, Force Boone, and Force Norton. Boone's force on the left of Force Field's present position which remained north of St Croix, would pass through Norton's force, likewise located on the left of Force Field in an attack on Sundhoffen (761-381), Map: Neuf-Brisach, 3 and 4 France 1:25,000, to be supported by Force Norton from the woods, then Force Field was to attack toward St Croix supported by fire from Assault Gun Platoon. The Assault Gun Platoon, now located 400 yards south of the bridge, was directed to walk his fire down the Colmar-St Croix road. Lt Jenks, Assault Gun Platoon leader, was ordered to fire one round of white phosphorus so that his fire could be adjusted by Major Field. The Assault Gun Platoon fire was held due to artillery concentration laid in the same area. A message at 0815 from CC-B reported antitank gun position at 743-392 in the woods near railroad and road junction (729-395). At 0830 Boone's force was being delayed at the crossroad by antitank fire; he reported that his force had knocked out one tank and one antitank gun. At 0830, Force Boone received fire from antitank gun at crossroads (743-392). Major Boone, Commander of Force Boone, deployed his force including one platoon of TDs, one infantry company, and one company of tanks in the vicinity of the enemy antitank position with the plan of making a concerted effort for the enemy emplacement. At 0920 it was reported that enemy reconnaissance vehicles were sighted 300

yards north of St Croix. The message from Force Field to the Assault Gun Platoon, an element within Field's force, was ordered to fire at 0900 WP on enemy reconnaissance vehicles, Major Field adjusting. A message from CC-B to Boone (0920) requesting an estimate of enemy strength on opposite side of road (744-394). In Boone's reply, estimate of enemy strength was approximately 150 infantry and three antitank guns. Boone's infantry at this time had been directed to make a double envelopment of the AT position at crossroads. Boone's force drew small arms fire from south of railroad and due to loss of one tank, running upon a minefield, and one tank receiving AT fire, the envelopment was halted. The antitank ditch in this vicinity, where at this time the CO of CC-B had established an advanced CP, was located at (75253840-275903871) facilitating a closer contact with the task forces. At 1145, message to CO CC-B ordering him to report to Big 6, CG, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. At 1312, Force Boone reported that antitank guns had been knocked out 745-392, 40 PWs captured. Force Boone was held up at the railroad tracks by AT fire from the south. Doughs of Force Boone are able to advance beyond the railroad tracks but armor was being held in its present position. Boone's Force requested engineers through CC-B to clear minefield so that his force could continue the attack and exploitation. At 1320, CO C 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, an element of Force Field, had encountered a sizeable enemy force in vicinity of bridge (726-391). Capt Fairburn, CO C/56<sup>th</sup> AIB, reported to Field that going was pretty slow with mortars laying fire on south edge of Colmar woods (71303738-72223631). A message at 1513 from Field ordering Assault Gun Platoon to fire searching fire for two minutes on enemy mortar positions. At 1640, a message from CC-B to S-3 714<sup>th</sup>, contemplating a relief of Force Boone and Force Norton and on this relief, elements of the 7814<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion would revert to control by Major Field, CO 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. Present positions would be consolidated by task forces awaiting relief by the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. At 1738, CO calls S-3 714<sup>th</sup> to contact CO C/714<sup>th</sup> and CO C/56 AIB and have them report to CO 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. At 1759, location of enemy pillbox (734-382) still being occupied. COs of task forces report to be on their way to 714<sup>th</sup> CP at 1838. Lt Heath, 714<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officer, from CC-B brought orders at 2220 to CO 714<sup>th</sup> to have all vehicles refuel and loaded with ammunition on their return to vicinity of rear CP and to notify CC-B as soon as this has been accomplished.

5 Feb 1945: CO 714<sup>th</sup> contacted S-3 CC-B by radio checking on unit that was to take over task force positions and when they were to relieve the forces. A company commanders meeting had been called by the CO 714<sup>th</sup> to meet at rear CP. At 0100 CO 714<sup>th</sup> checked with Ex O and found that some of the relief units were moving into position. Reconnaissance platoon was relieved of its present mission in preparation for a new mission. At 0246, information reached Hq 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion that relief of the task forces would be completed in about 45 minutes or about 0400. By 0600, the 714<sup>th</sup> had assembled in south Colmar making preparations for a movement south. Field Order #6 was received from CC-B at 0630 covering plan for division move to vicinity of Rouffach, France, before daylight. Elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> French Army are advancing north from Soultz, France (621-205), to effect the junction with elements of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division at Rouffach, France. The enemy is reported withdrawing from the vicinity south of Colmar but antitank fire was reported in the vicinity of Herrlisheim covering the north and south road from 685-365 to 681-350 during the daylight hours. The 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division will march on an axis, Colmar-Hattstatt- Pfaffenheim-Rouffach to effect a junction with the 1<sup>st</sup> French Army. The

order of march will be CC-A, CC-B and CC-R and by available routes along this axis, by-passing enemy strong points where possible. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion will follow 56<sup>th</sup> AIB and be prepared to by-pass the 56<sup>th</sup> AIB if necessary to reach objective. By 0815, the column was halted on the road west of Herrlisheim, France (697-354). At 0820, CC-A reported that their objective had been taken and the junction with the French had been made. All enemy resistance at the objective ceased. Air reports on bridges from north to south at 1230 on the axis of march revealed that the first bridge was in, the second out, the third in, and the fourth out. A message previously received at 1100 confirmed all bridges in and OK for crossing on route of advance Colmar-Rouffach. A message at 1400 from CO Co A, requesting information of troops moving north from St Croix and the reply from CO to Harrington stated that they may be elements of CC-R or French. Company A at this time had reverted from 714<sup>th</sup> control to 109 Infantry Division for support in attack and exploitation from vicinity Colmar woods to the Rhine. The 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion assembled at checkpoint G, objective in Rouffach at 1415, all vehicles closing in at 1416. Harrington's location at 1420 719-351 in vicinity west of Herrlisheim. At 1600, Force Boone with C/714, A/56<sup>th</sup> and one squad of engineers, move from Rouffach north on main road to secondary road turning west toward objective, Oberhergheim (747-297). Force Boone received small arms fire from woods north of his route of advance (woods 705-295). At 1645, Force Boone passed through one platoon of B/714, an element of Force Field located beyond railroad (6850295). Force Field minus one platoon from Co B moved from Rouffach following Boone to position in vicinity west of railroad. Force Norton, 56<sup>th</sup> AIB minus Co A followed Force Field passing through Force Field on axis of advance toward Oberhergheim. Plan: Boone to occupy Oberhergheim, Norton to protect north flank of Boone Force. Field to follow up and remain as reserve in the approximate vicinity west of Oberhergheim (730-295). At 1720, message from Force Field ordered Lt Jenks of the Assault Gun Platoon, 714<sup>th</sup> and D/714 to move to right and left of Force Commander, Major Field. A message from Boone to CO/714 reported that friendly troops are in Oberhergheim. Major Field ordered Force Boone to move into town. At 1745, a message from CC-B to B/714 asking the position of B/714 and if his company was ready to move into Oberhergheim. Capt Leehman stated that he was in position but not ready to move in. Force Boone reported at 1820 that his force was well into town and receiving mortar fire from undetermined directions. Force Norton joins Force Boone in Oberhergheim. At 1948, message that Capt Clayton CO C/714 is in Oberhergheim and has met friendly foreign officer. A message to Boone from CO/714 directed that troops with Clayton move into Oberhergheim. The roads into town of Oberhergheim were partially blocked by troops moving in, including French, 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, elements of 714<sup>th</sup> and engineers of CC-B. The S-3 of 714<sup>th</sup> notified CO/714 that the rear CP is set up where originally planned, east of Rouffach (message 957 at 694-292). At 2000, Capt Kelly S-2, 714<sup>th</sup> contacted friendly infantry moving north and south of (684-291) to the east. Force Boone wants to know the situation with the French and if they are infiltrating toward east. At 2001, CC-B stated that all friendly troops have occupied ground this side or west of Ill River which runs north and southeast of Oberhergheim. At 2005, a message from Boone requesting information on evacuation of wounded from his position south in Oberhergheim, to CO/714. The occupying troops in Oberhergheim are now under command of Norton. Capt Wilson of the 119<sup>th</sup> Engineers has been notified to reconnoiter for bridge site in Oberhergheim, across the Ill River, east,

toward the Rhine River. At 2027, it was reported that friendly infantry were advancing from north toward Oberhergheim. At 2120, an initial plan to have units in Oberhergheim continue the attack to the Rhine River was changed with the following set up in effect: C/714 will be with Force Norton, Force Boone plus B/714 will return to Force Field.

6 Feb 1945: At 0715, a message to Capt Leehman, CO B/714 from CO 714, in vicinity of crossroads 729-302, warned that there are about 25 enemy in the woods to his rear. At 0730, the Reconnaissance Platoon with 4 peeps was sent to investigate report of 25 enemy in woods vicinity of CP (729-302). The Reconnaissance Platoon returned at 0830 reporting no results in their search for enemy position. At 0730, a CP guard of 714<sup>th</sup> rear CP reported 14 enemy walking down road (694-294) in patrol formation. The Battalion S-3, Capt Magruder, accompanied by officers and men, searched the area in vicinity of CP but were unable to locate reported enemy patrol believed to be enemy reported in woods west of CR 729-302. At 0835, Capt Wilson of the engineers, in message, stated he was ready to put in bridge at Oberhergheim, requesting one tank dozer report to him at bridge site, no enemy present in area. At 1215, message from CC-B to CO/714, notifies Battalion of enemy vehicles at 778-243, 798-272, roadblock 768-256. Major Field at 1220 left for reconnaissance to north from his present position, vicinity CR 729-302. The 714<sup>th</sup> would remain in its present position until return of CO. Major Field returned from reconnaissance at 1335 arriving at CP 694-292. Major Avery arrived at 714<sup>th</sup> CP to confer with CO at 1335. At 1400 Companies B, D/714 and Assault Gun are ordered to report to rear CP. A message at 1735 ordered that no units of 714<sup>th</sup> would be sent across Ill River as friendly infantry were to take mission. The present CP will be moved to Oberhergheim in vicinity of bridge site. The command H/T will be the only vehicle moved to new CP, the distance of which was 4 miles from the present CP (694-292). At 2130, Lt Taylor, L/O, reported to CP with information that the mission of 714<sup>th</sup> remaining in present position, vicinity Oberhergheim, had been changed, that new mission is to move to west and guard Vosges Passes (663-352). If 714<sup>th</sup> desires to remain in present location, it may, if not, the battalion will move to town of Herrlisheim (697-354). From CC-B to CO/714<sup>th</sup>, send your answer by radio – yes, if to move, no, if do not desire to move tonight. The CO, Major Field, answered no. At 2400, a message from CC-B alerting 714<sup>th</sup> to be ready to move at 0830 on 7 Feb 1945.

7 Feb 1945: At 0800, an overlay plus verbal order as explanation to overlay (included herewith) was received. Co A/714<sup>th</sup> will be attached to 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in crossing of Ill River. (The complete mission of A/714 will be outlined in succeeding portion of narrative as it was detached for the operations in immediate vicinity.) At 1030, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion minus Co A/714<sup>th</sup> crosses IP enroute to Herrlisheim and Obermorschwihr. Billeting plans were confused in order from CC-B causing Battalion to remain on road from 1200 to 1400. The Battalion closed in at 1430, Company D in Obermorschwihr; Hq, B, C and Service Companies in Herrlisheim. The Battalion was alerted for possible presence of enemy agents and stragglers in the Herrlisheim-Obermorschwihr area (673-355). All personnel report any suspicious persons or incidents to Battalion Headquarters immediately. Message 1120, locating PW processing point (69453545). After battalion had cleared in Herrlisheim and Obermorschwihr, a defense against possible enemy infiltration was ordered in that companies would form patrols of two peeps to cover the battalion area and report hours to CC-B through Hq/714<sup>th</sup>, enemy activity as negative to the

same effect. A search for lost or stolen truck, 2 ½ was made of the battalion in response to directive from higher headquarters. Negative reports were submitted by 714<sup>th</sup> after thorough search.

8 Feb 1945: At 1000, a company commanders meeting was called by CO/714 with general discussion of situation and billeting of troops. At 1100, Ex O, Major Boone, called a meeting of all staff officers discussing the execution of disseminating information to companies.

9 Feb 1945: At 1100, the Liaison Officer, Lt Heath, from CC-B with information that the bridge over Lou River (669-353) is thought to be mined. Capt Kelly, S-2, 714<sup>th</sup>, checked the Lou River bridge and found that it was heavily mined and requested through CC-B that engineers be sent to this location. At 1300, Company A/714<sup>th</sup> reverted to battalion control after being attached to the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during operations apart from those in the vicinity of Oberhergheim. The following is operations and actions of "A" 714<sup>th</sup> on its detachment from 714<sup>th</sup> to the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Company A/714 moved with Force Boone in CC-Reserve and established its CP in northeast Colmar on 3 Feb 1945. The company moved on 4 Feb, 0400, with Force Boone with the mission of taking Sundhoffen, France. Force Boone was attacking on two routes, CO Company A/714, one platoon of tanks plus two platoons of infantry to proceed down road through woods to Sundhoffen (761-381). On 4 Feb at 1705, one platoon of tanks from Company A was sent to road junction (745-395) to attack enemy antitank positions. The element was diverted from this mission to knock out enemy AT position on railroad to the south (743-392). Force Boone at 1500 on 4 Feb was relieved by the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the third platoon to the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, made a midnight attack on Sundhoffen on 4 and 5 Feb, taking 100 prisoners. The 1<sup>st</sup> platoon with the 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, on 5 Feb moved out 0700, proceeded southwest to the Colmar Woods to a position on the road between Herrlisheim and St Croix, France. The 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was relieved from attachment from the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion remaining under company control at 1000 5 Feb. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon now under company control was given a mission as supporting fire in the vicinity north of St Croix, firing east. Coordination with supporting fire of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, the 1<sup>st</sup> platoon will attack St Croix with the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion of the 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. At 1400 on 5 Feb the company assembled on its objective, St Croix. At 1700 on 5 Feb the second and third platoon of Company A attacked Niederhergheim with 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion of the 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, with light resistance, capturing 20 PWs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, Company A, remained in Niederhergheim the night of 5 Feb, Capt Harrington being relieved from the 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at 2000 on 6 Feb and attached to the 110<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. At 0800 7 Feb the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon company A proceeded to Rustenhardt to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion 110<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in their attack. As a result of this operation, there was established a bridge site over the Rhine Rone Canal and the destruction of 12 enemy pillboxes. The 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon remained in this vicinity to secure the bridge site. The balance of Company A advanced to Rustenhardt (795-269). On 7 Feb at 1700, Company A/714<sup>th</sup> minus the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon moved to Baldau (855-255) by way of Dessenheim (816-307) crossing bridge at 835-325, and proceeding south to Baldau. The town of Baldau had been previously taken by the French. Capt Harrington, CO Company A, contacted the French, with agreement that Company A would cover northeast of town, and the French forces the southern portion. At 0045 8 Feb, the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon of

Company A with the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion 110<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, moved to and occupied Nambenheim with no enemy resistance. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon covered the eastern portion of Nambenheim overlooking the woods along the Rhine River. The company disposition on 8 Feb was 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon in vicinity of Nambenheim, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon and company headquarters in Baldau, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon covering bridge site at Rhine Rone Canal. At 0900, 9 Feb Company A/714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, reverting to 714<sup>th</sup> control and joining its battalion in Herrlisheim, France on 9 Feb at 1300. At 1630, a company commanders meeting was called for contemplated move at 2230. The order of march: 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, CC-B, and 714<sup>th</sup> to march in series. At 1735 a message was received postponing move until after daylight on 10 February. The battalion remained on two hour alert status effective at this time.

10 Feb 1945: At 1345 a message was received that move from Herrlisheim, France is expected after 1715 this date. The original route of march was changed, and corrected route included herewith. At 1600, a company commanders meeting was called, with order of march given and overlay of route of march. At 1815 the battalion moved from Herrlisheim, crossing IP 686-687 at 1830.

11 Feb 1945: At 0900 the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion closed in at Cites de Charbonnages, France, traveling a distance of one hundred fourteen miles. At 1300 an overlay from CC-B showing disposition of friendly troops was received at this headquarters. Reconnaissance Platoon was attached to 56<sup>th</sup> AIB at 1300 to set up a counter-reconnaissance screen with OP's Bambiderstroff. 167-566, Narbefontaine, 132-610, Boucheborn 179-609, and Zimming 160-593, establishing contact with CC-A at Bambiderstroff and the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Narbefontaine.

12 Feb 1945: At 0930 the battalion received an overlay to the enemy situation. By 1600, Capt Kelly, Battalion S-2, had made a reconnaissance of the area now occupied by the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion and surrounding area, forwarding the results to CC-B.

13 Feb 1945: Lt Heath, Liaison Officer and Battalion Gunnery Officer, reconnoitered area for ranges for firing of tank weapons of new tanks – M4A3E8. At 1300 awards were presented to the members of the 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion for achievements in the past operations by Major Field, CO/714<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Carlson, Adjutant, in formal presentation.

14 Feb 1945: At 1400 Major Field, CO/714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Carlson, Adjutant, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, made formal presentations of awards for achievements in past operations to members of this battalion.

15 Feb through 28 Feb 1945: Training of troops in night reconnaissance patrols and small unit training (Advance Guard, Section and platoon problems), range firing (firing at captured German tank) with 76mm gun and bazooka, maintenance of vehicles, drawing the new M4A3E8 medium tank, gas mask training, baths and rehabilitation of troops were accomplished during this period.

/signed/

F. P. FIELD, Major, Cavalry, Commanding

**LISTING OF INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC FOR FEBRUARY 1945**

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	1	010000	Battalion located in Eckwersheim, France, alerted to be ready to counterattack any enemy attack in vicinity north of Strassbourg. Battalion conducting training consisting of tank-infantry team in attack of town, maintenance of vehicles and weapons and equipment	
	2	012400	Warning Order received from CC-B by L/O to be prepared to move by 0800. Details later	
	3	090900	Operations Instructions received from CC-B, Division to move to assembly area vicinity Selestat, France	
	4	021100	Order received, be prepared to move by 1800	
	5	021200	L/O at CP with order to cross IP at 1500 with route of march, overlay	
	6	021350	S-3 leaves to coordinate movement	
	7	021400	Battalion moves out, march without incident, closed in town of Epfigh, France at 2245	
	8	022245	CO to meeting at CC-B	
	9	022400	CO returns from CC-B. CC-B broke down into task forces, task force Field, task force Boone, task force Norton. B/714 to go to TF Norton, A/714 to go to TF Boone, Battalion to march south to assembly area north of Colmar, prepared to exploit to south. Route of march pointed out on map. TF Field to follow TF Norton. TF Field consists of Hq – Hq Co, C/714 – C/56. TF Boone – A/714, A/56. TF Norton – 56 (-) plus B/714	
	1	030300	March to assembly area without incident	
	2	030600	Battalion in assembly area, received orders to move south into Colmar	
	3	030730	Reconnaissance Platoon reports small arms firing and snipers in Colmar	
	4	030800	Company commanders meeting at RJ 1 1/3 miles north of Colmar	
	5	030900	Battalion enters Colmar, moves to south of town across railroad. Friendly infantry at canal in firefight	
	6	030930	CO moves AG and Mortar platoon into firing position at railroad tracks, bridge across canal is out. Bridge site received heavy mortar and artillery fire	
	7	031210	Cerice panels to be displayed on all vehicles	
	8	031220	Two enemy tanks between me and objective	
	9	031230	Jenks, move your fire 200 yards to right	



**LISTING OF INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC FOR FEBRUARY 1945**

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	10	031235	Parsons, put mortar fire on road south of bridge, walk it south on road	
	11	031305	Message from S-3 (CC-B): PW taken by friendly force on your left, states that his unit had orders to withdraw. Push forward vigorously	
	12	031310	CO (Field force) asks for engineers	
	13	031312	S-3, CC-B asks if more air support is needed	
	14	031314	CO (Field force) replies NO	
	15	031315	Overlay to location of advance CP sent to CC-B	
	16	031420	Have laborers you requested arrived? They did not come from our point. L/O bringing details	
	17	031600	AT gun captured, bridgehead established, no resistance present	
	18	031920	Have outfit dig in to hold bridgehead. My outfit in close support this side canal; have coordinated with artillery officer for defense plan, also mortar on general support of defense but do not figure in close defense. Clayton replies to question of S-3 as to what action is taking place	
	1	042400	Heavy artillery fire received south side of Colmar	
	2	040330	Artillery fire about 3 yards every 15 minutes all night, increasing around 0300 to about 1 round per minute	
	3	040530	CC-B: Civilian reports enemy CP unidentified unit at 7389344, ammo dump at 73503469, one battery artillery at 74463479	
	4	040700	Message from C/714: We have had quite a bit of action during night and doughs fired at by either artillery or AT guns. Seven artillery pieces or AT guns on road 500 yards south of bridge. We have fired at them with artillery. Something has been digging in quite a bit in front of our positions. (Relayed to Hq)	
	5	040730	Artillery observes peep with Sv Co, have it sent up to me	
	6	040745	C/714: Dave has casualties, send something up for them	Med
	7	040740	Medics to send up transport for evacuation	
	8	040755	L/O at CP with info, Norton's force on our left to be passed through by Boone's force in attack on Soundhoffen, support from woods, then Field's force to attack toward St Croix. Jenks, fire on road approx. 400 yards south of bridge, walk your fire down road. I will adjust for you, start firing, be sure it is out	

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0830	9	040815	400 yards. Fire one round of white phosphorus so I can adjust. Jenks, are you ready to fire? First round on the way. Hold fire, artillery concentration being laid in same area	
			Message from CC-B: AT gun located at 743392 in woods near railroad and road junction	
	10	040830	Boone's force is delayed at crossroad by AT fire, one tank and AT gun knocked out	
	11	040830	Boone to move in on AT gun and fire	
	12	040920	Enemy reconnaissance vehicle 300 yards north of St Croia, fire WP and I will adjust. CC-B at ditch this side of objective near railroad. CC-B to Boone: have you estimate of enemy strength on other side of road? Boone's infantry at this time, double envelopment of AT gun – have drawn small arms fire from south of railroad, has stopped envelopment force. Coordinate on AT ditch – 75253840-275903871	
	13	041015	C/714 message to Jenks: report up to me where we were before. Same message to Parsons	
	14	041135	CC-B: If our 6 is there, tell him to report to Big 6	
	15	041210	Send more vehicles for evacuation up to Dave. Your mission now to move to woods	
	16	041303	AG platoon leader and Co D called to report to Advance CP	
	17	041312	Force Boone reports AT gun knocked out at 743-392. 40 PW taken, can't get their tank over railroad tracks, doughs have advanced beyond – Boone called CC-B for Engineers to clear minefield so their force can exploit	
	18	041320	C/56 to CO: Dave will move as soon as possible	
	19	041330	Dave is ready to move. He doesn't think his right platoon is strong enough, so he is pulling two from right to drive them into creek. CO to CC-B: How about Norton? Tie in his right with your left along road. Thirteen yellow legs in vicinity of bridge, yes on north side not quite up to railroad	
	20	041351	Dave has met sizeable force on his right. He is trying to outflank them	
	21	041351	32 PWs taken by D/92. We're moving, receiving considerable resistance about 100 yards beyond our original position	
	22	041359	Dave jumped off, pretty slow going	
	23	041401	CO to CC-B: Dave moved out on right and is circling to remove obstacle; progress slow	

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	24	041406	Dave called for aid, CO called to come up to pick up PWs	
	25	041440	Mortars in south edge of Colmar woods	S T M
	26	041500	Coordinate – 71343738 to 72223631 – location of mortars	S M
	27	041506	CO orders AG to fire on position of mortars	
	28	041513	Jenks to fire searching fire for two minutes. On the situation at present	
	29	041539	We are working the shells in. Norton has reached railroad and is doing well	
	30	041550	Jenks fired 60 rounds on mortar positions	
	31	041640	CC-B to 3: On relief, you revert to control Field	
	32	041738	CO calls S-3 to contact CO C/714 and C/56 and have them report to CO tank	
	33	041748	No friendly troops in area (734-382) intercepted	
	34	041759	Pillbox located at 734-382, enemy still occupy	
	35	041800	Norton's task force on objective	
	36	041811	Have kitchen start making coffee, outfit will be soon there	
	37	041826	CC-B to CO: The people who are coming will be somewhat delayed, Boone is on his way to you	
	38	041838	The people are now on their way	
	39	041840	PW states two enemy AA at 72453865, 75 mm howitzer at 72393788. CP of 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion of 198 Security Regiment at 71643840	
	40	042125	Two or three captives in Herrlisheim, rest of Battalion in Herrlisheim. Two-thirds Herrlisheim in our hands	
	41	042220	L/O from CC-B: to have all vehicles refueled and loaded with all ammo they can carry – CC-B to be notified as soon as accomplished	
	42	042300	CO calls company commanders meeting at rear CP	
	43	042340	Have CO A/56 return to forward CP, hold his outfit from going beyond forward CP	
	1	050020	CO called S-3 CC-B, checked on unit to relieve us	
	2	050100	CO checked with Exec Off and found that some of the relief element has moved in	
	3	050240	S-3 called Exec Off to get reconnaissance platoon relieved for new mission	
	4	050244	CO checked with Exec Off to find out how much longer it will be before we're relieved	

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	5	050245	S-2 checked with 56 Infantry as to when they expect to move out	
	6	050246	Exec Off to CO: Relief will be completed in about 45 mins	
	7	050355	S-3 checks with Exec Off to find out how much longer until relieved	
	8	050423	Exec Off orders reconnaissance platoon to come back to CP	
	9	050426	CO calls CO C/Co to get his company up to appointed spot so that they can refuel	
	10	050430	S-3 calls Clayton: Leave recovery vehicle with disabled tank and have it pulled to our Sv Park. Pull rest of company up to prearranged spot	
	11	050600	Preparations for movement completed. 56 Inf first elements moving out	
	12	050630	B/714 advance guard moves out following CC-B; for route and order, see FO #6	
	13	050750	Crossed checkpoint halt	
	14	050758	Crossed checkpoint A	
	15	050815	Column halted on road	
	16	050820	CO to go to S-3, CC-B, 1000 yards south of checkpoint C	
	17	050820	Objective taken by CC-A and junction made with French Army. All resistance at objective ceases	
	18	051100	Have secured objective, bridges OK. Secure bridges, stand by and await orders	
	19	051230	Air reports on bridges from north to south; first in, second out, third in, fourth out	
	20	051400	Message from Harrington: Do you know of friendly troops moving north to St Croix? Answer: No, but it may be CC-R or French	
	21	051406	We are not building bridge, we have bridge half ways between D and C, awaiting clearance through French	
	22	051415	Force assembling in assembly area north and east of O	
	23	051416	All vehicles in assembly area will be faced west	
	24	051420	Harrington's location 719-351	
	25	051430	Make main effort at northern bridge, CO directs attack immediately	
	26	051600	Boone's force moves out	
	27	051630	Boone's force received small arms fire	
	28	051645	Boone passing through Field	
	29	051705	(B/714) Norton's paddlefeet are behind me, shall I send them on up?	

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	30	051707	CO/714, yes, send them up, they will pass through and keep going	
	31	051720	Jenks, come up on my right; D/714, come up on left	
	32	051722	CO/714 to Boone: There are friendly troops in town. CO to C/714: move into town	
	33	051722	C/714 to CO: Knows that he & I have been in there on foot	
	34	051745:	CC-B to B/714: Are you in position to go into town? CO/714: Yes, am in position, not quite ready to go into town	
	35	051820	Boone: I am well into town, bridge is blown, my flank is exposed, friendly force on my left, I am receiving mortar fire	
	36	051945	CO/714: Norton is coming in with you, his mission is changed	
	37	051948	Clayton is in second town, met friendly foreign officer there, advised to give foreign troops interior of town. He has about 200 with him. CO/714 to Boone: Have them to go either town	
	38	051950	Road is blocked, uncertain as to when we can come thru there	
	39	051955	Norton is clearing out remaining enemy. B will continue on to crossroads	
	40	051957	S-3 to CO: CP is set up where planned	
	41	052000	S-2 met friendly Infantry, said they would be moving north and south of us to the east	
	42	052001	Boone wants to know what is the situation with French. French are infiltrating. CC-B claims all friendly troops have occupied all on our side of creek	
	43	052005	D/92 is wanted by CC-B. Boone wants to know how about evacuating wounded	
	44	052025	Norton takes command of troops in town, Wilson, reconnoiter for bridge site. Norton establishes bridgehead immediately	
	45	052027	Friendly infantry coming in from north	
	46	052100	Disregard message of 2025	
	47	052120	The plan we outlined earlier has been changed, someone else is going to do the job; your company will remain with Norton. Boone to CC-B: What is my status now? CC-B to Boone: You revert to Battalion control	
	48	052230	C/714 to stay with Norton, Boone & B/714 to return to Force Field – CO/714 asks CC-B for doughs. D/92 (1 platoon) has not shown up as yet	
	49	052310	Friendly boats enroute for infantry, post guides for them	

<u>TIME</u> <u>IN</u> <u>OUT</u>	<u>SER</u> <u>NO.</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u> <u>TAKEN</u>
	1	060715	CO to Leehman: There are about 25 Germans in woods back of you, take positions	
	2	060730	Bring up rations, coffee, water and fuel	
	3	060730	CP Guard reports 14 enemy walking down road in patrol formation	
	4	060730	Reconnaissance Platoon: 4 peeps readied for movement, take off after enemy	
	5	060830	Reconnaissance Platoon returned, no results on enemy	
	6	060835	Engineers ready for second phase of mission, doughs not in position	
	7	060820	Have your dozer tank report to Wilson at bridge site	
1025	8	060635	Wilson has started to put in his bridge, seems to be no krauts around	
	9	061045	S-4 is enroute to CO with stuff ordered. Road jam may cause delay	
	10	061215	Enemy vehicles reported 778-243, 798-272; road block 768-256	
	11	061220	Infantry has two units across, Wilson waiting for bailey bridge. CO/714 to make reconnaissance to north	
	12	061227	CO going north for possible move. Unit to stay in position until further orders	
	13	061335	CO arrived at this CP, Maj Avery arrived at this CP, to confer with CO	
	14	061400	Exec called B and D and AG to report his CP	
	15	061735	Message from higher hq says not to send any of our units across river, friendly infantry to take care of our mission	
	16	061830	CP location to be moved to Oberheim, near bridge site. Commanding track only to be moved	
	17	061900	Moved out, distance traveled four miles, closed at 2010	
	18	062130	L/O reports to CP with info that mission has changed, that new mission is to move west and guard Vosges Pass. If you wish to move tonight, you may. If you do move, you will move to town of Herrlisheim. Send your answer by radio. Yes, if you wish to move tonight, No, if you do not wish to move tonight	
	19	062200	Answer to CC-B: No	
	20	062230	L/O and S-3 checked progress on bridge for CO CC-B	
	21	062345	L/O and S-3 returned from bridge site, bridge has center span to put in and also two-span bridge across canal yet to be built	
	22	062400	Message received to be ready to move at 070830	
	1	070800	Overlay and order of new mission received. A Co DS to 28 Inf Div, crosses Ill River	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>		<u>ACTION</u>	
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>TAKEN</u>
		2	070800	CC meeting at CP, instructions issued on movement	
		3	070930	Battalion CP moves to crossroads	
		4	071030	Battalion CP crosses IP enroute to Herrlisheim and Obermorshweire	
		5	071200	Billet plans and confused order from CC-B hold Battalion on road from 1200 to 1400	
		6	071430	Battalion closed at 1430, D Co in Obermorshweire, Hqs, B, C, and Sv in Herrlisheim	
	1800	7	071750	All personnel must be alert to the possible presence of enemy agents and stragglers in this area. Report any suspicious personnel or incidents to this Hqs immediately	T
1713		8	071120	(indecipherable) processing PWs ...at 6945345, all PWs will be forwarded to this point	S M
1915		9	071915	CC-B to 714: Report hourly by FM, telephone, or by patrols stopping here	S T
1940		10	071920	CC-B to 714: Search immediately your unit for presence of 2 1/2 ton truck, 6x6, truck bumper markings: 285474, War D SPAR, 7 men, No 4150427, report to S-2 by 080800A Feb 45	T
	2055	11	072055	072055A report to CC-B negative	H
		12	072125	Negative report on message of 71920 from D/714	
		13	072148	Hqs, Sv, A, B Companies report negative on msg of 71920	
2345		14	072325	Division CP opened 1530A at Wintzenheim V663418	M
		1	081000	Company commanders meeting	
		2	081100	Staff officers meeting called	
1045		3	081007	Communication is reestablished, make hourly report on patrol by radio	
		4	081200	Major Boone left for Herrlisheim (different town from CP location)	
		5	081500	Lt Col Clow, Exec O CC-B, visited the CP	
		1	091100	L/O from CC-B with info that bridge over Lou River is thought mined	
		2	091200	S-2 checked bridge and found it heavily mined	
		3	091330	S-2 CC-B notified and requested to send Engineers	
		4	091300	A Co reverted to Battalion command	
		5	091300	Guards posted on the bridge in question	
1405		6	091405	CC-B can't get in touch with Engineers have has no peep, send peep to get Engineers	
		7	091413	Bridge has been taken care of	

<u>TIME</u>		<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATED</u>		<u>TAKEN</u>
		8	091630	Company commanders meeting for contemplated move at 2230; 56 <sup>th</sup> , CC-B and 714 to march in serials	
		9	091735	Move postponed until after daylight tomorrow, two hour alert status effective then	
		1	101345	Word received that move is contemplated after 1715, route of march change received	
		2	101600	Company commanders meeting	
		3	101815	Battalion moved from Herrlisheim	
		4	101830	Crossed IP, coordinate 686687, crossroads No 1	
		1	110900	Battalion closed in, CP set up at Sites De Charbonnages, France; distance traveled 114 miles	
		2	111300	Received overlay, Hqs CC-B, disposition of friendly troops	M S T
		3	111300	Reconnaissance Platoon attached to 56 <sup>th</sup> Inf to set up reconnaissance screen with CPs at Bambiderstroff, Marbefontaine, Bouchepon and Zimming. Established contact with CC-A at Bambiderstroff and 26 <sup>th</sup> Division at Marbefontaine	
1100		1	121100	Received overlay of enemy situation at 120930	
		2	121400	Received G-2 Report # 20	
		3	121600	S-2 made reconnaissance and sent overlay to CC-B	
		1	130900	Lt Heath reconnoitered firing ranges and sent overlay to CC-B	
		2	131300	Lt MacDougal, Pvt Bartelt, Lt LaFrance, Capt Clayton, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt Shelton, Sgt Lindquist, Lt Kresge awarded Bronze Star	
		1	141400	Cpl Oakes, Sgt Okoniewski, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Kettler received Bronze Star	

(Period from 14th February to 1<sup>st</sup> March included training of troops, night reconnaissance patrols stressed)



## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION

### OFFICERS ROSTER

FEBRUARY 1945

#### Battalion Headquarters

Major Frederick P Field	Commanding
Major William R Comfort	Exec Officer; Transferred 23 Tank Battalion to 714 <sup>th</sup>
Major James M Boone	Exec Officer to S-3
Capt Robert C Kelly	S-2; promoted from 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Captain
Capt Morris Schwartz	Communications Officer
Capt John K Shipe	S-4
Capt Charles E Jenkins	Division GRO
Capt Herbert E Magruder	S-3 to no assigned duties
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Joe C Carlson	S-1
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath	Liaison Officer

#### Headquarters Company

Capt George Harding	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor	Reconnaissance Officer; promoted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1 <sup>st</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold A Sleeman	Maintenance Officer; promoted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	Mortar Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James R Jenks	Assault Gun Platoon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Abe H Traktman	Transferred from D Co, 714 <sup>th</sup> ; SSO – EFM – Bn Gas Off

#### Company A

Capt Robert W Harrington	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Tank Platoon Leader; promoted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1 <sup>st</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt	Tank Platoon Leader; promoted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1 <sup>st</sup>

#### Company B

Capt James W Leehman	Commanding; promoted from 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Capt
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Goad	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles E Hisiger	Tank Platoon Leader; Hosp to Duty; promoted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Philpott	Tank Platoon Leader

## OFFICERS ROSTER for FEBRUARY 1945 (Continued)

### Company C

Capt Charles C Clayton	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold S Landau	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Richard P LaFrance	Tank Platoon Leader; promoted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt John N McDougal	Tank Platoon Leader; Battlefield Appointment
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps	Tank Platoon Leader; Battlefield Appointment

### Company D

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt John G Cook	Commanding; Hospital to Duty
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff	Commanding to Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William W Turley	Tank Platoon Leader; Transferred from C/714
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William J Venema	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta	Tank Platoon Leader

### Service Company

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt	Commanding
Capt John E Stuerwald	Battalion Motor Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Casmir F Grochowski	Company Maintenance Officer; Relieved of SSO, EFM
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer
CWO Joseph T Collins	Personnel Officer
WOJG George M Frost	Supply & Evacuation Staff Officer
WOJG Charles D Frazier	Motor Transportation Officer

### Medics

Capt Garfield S Barnet	Medical Officer – General Surgery; promoted from 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Capt
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Leonard D Wentworth	Medical Assistant – MAC

**714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION**

**CASUALTY REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 1945**

**KIA**

Cpl Christ F Tsimbidis, 16146963

Company A

**DOW**

Negative

**WIA**

Sgt Walter A Alverson, 36873975

Company A

Tec 4 Otto C Heublein, 35126284

Company A

Pvt John Gulezian, 33579817

Company B

## 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – NARRATIVE OF ACTIONS – MARCH 1945

The period 1 March to 16 March 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.

17 Mar 1945: At 0745 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, Grebenmacher, Baumholder.

18 Mar 1945: The battalion closed in assembly area in Baumholder, Germany, for refueling and to await plans for advance. The battalion commander arriving from CC-B brought with him the overlay of the battalion advance to be coordinated with company C/56<sup>th</sup> AIB. When the force moves out, radio silence will be maintained, cerise panels will be displayed on all combat vehicles, one to every general purpose vehicle. In addition to the cerise panels, the yellow panel will also be displayed by this unit, until the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, and from the 20<sup>th</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> March the cerise panel, only, will be displayed. At 0600 Force Field left the assembly area heading east with route of march Stadtbredimus – route 10 to Wormeldinger – route 1 to Grevenmacher – N49 to Tier, to Ruwer. The order of march was Hqs, Company A, Company C, Company D, Company C/56, and Service Company. Force Field's advance will be on the right of CC-B with CC-B located on the right of the division advance with the objective Worms. All non-combat vehicles remained with the service elements of the force. The move from Baumholder, Germany was very slow due to units other than 12<sup>th</sup> Armored using the same route of march. On 18 March 1945 at 1100 the battalion had advanced passed the town of Patersbach, with over 250 prisoners counted by first unit of the main body and many others collected along the column. At 1830 the battalion arrived and immediately departed from Horschbach heading southeast. At 1900 on the same date, Company C sent back 50 PWs who were turned over to the mortar platoon, for transportation to the rear. On this same date, additional PWs were taken after Company C, the lead company, had encountered some small arms fire, moving in on the enemy and quickly causing them to surrender.

19 Mar 1945: From 1150 to 1255 Major Field discussed the situation and planned a further movement at coordinates 099989 with the combat commander of CC-B. The battalion closed in at coordinates 099989 – 1400. At 1600 a company commanders meeting was called awaiting instructions from the S-3 of CC-B. At 1650, the battalion moved from this area arriving at Ramsen at 1745 and moving to Imsweiller and arriving there at 2030. Message received from the combat commander ordered that Force Field will remain in Imsweiller. At 2145 Major Field held a meeting with the combat commander, the objective was changed and at this time the battalion from Imsweiller. At 2400 elements of Force Field and additional units in the vicinity received artillery fire slowing the force advance, suffering one vehicle casualty and one personnel casualty in Company C/56<sup>th</sup> AIB.

20 Mar 1945: At 0830 the battalion closed in an area to the north of Gersheim for refueling and servicing of vehicles and was subjected to some small arms fire in the area. The battalion moves on in the direction of Kittsabald and cautioned, as many enemy were seen to be entering the town. At 1045 the battalion assembled east of Enkenbach, Germany, being subjected to enemy aircraft attacks. A

report from Task Force Norton stated that four tanks of B/714 had been knocked out by enemy AA and AT fire. Prior to this assembly, the battalion had moved to Neukirchen, assembling east of town making reconnaissance to the south and to the west, with orders to avoid any action that might deter the force from its mission. A message at 1140 from CO CC-B to Major Field ordering him to report to his command halftrack, that General Ennis was in that vicinity, Eisenberg. At 1835 the force was ordered to move to the town of Freinsheim in support of elements of Force Norton. At 2000 the force moved out and by 2100 the area in the vicinity of Freinsheim had been cleared but by-passing the town. It was reported to the force at 2215 from an element of a reconnaissance troop that it had encountered much bazooka fire on leaving the town of Freinsheim. The force commander, Major Field, with Major Comfort, Executive Officer, went forward to contact CO 92d Reconnaissance Troop at 2233 for information as to the situation east of Freinsheim, due to impassible roads out of Freinsheim the reported enemy resistance was by-passed, the force moved to Kerchwin, Germany, closing in at 0800 on 21 Mar 1945.

21 Mar 1945: At 0700 a company commanders meeting was called by Force Field with instructions for Company D to send a patrol of light tanks to Frankenthal. At 1000 this patrol reported to the Force that all towns between their present position and Frankenthal were clear. At 1030 the force prepared to move out to Frankenthal by way of West Mannerheim and hold this area until relieved by an infantry division. C/56 and D/714 moved directly to Frankenthal. At 1100 the force received orders that their objective had been changed, ordering the force to move south to Speyer, Germany. At 1145 the force moved out from Frankenthal using south and east roads or any available route leading in that direction, per order received from CO CC-B. During this march the force encountered small enemy resistance from woods along route and once being strafed in vicinity of Kraspots by three enemy ME 109s. Enemy air activity still continues to harass the force until 1400. The route of advance is congested by combat team of the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in addition to many PWs moving to the rear. At 1530 the force was approaching the town of Ruskeim with the plan of attack being given to elements of the force. Company "A" to attack the town from the left, Company "C" to make a frontal assault, the mortar platoon placed smoke in front of the town with the assault gun platoon screening the right flank of the force. The assault gun platoon leader reported an enemy tank going into position in front of the town of Ruskeim. At 1630 the force had entered the town of Ruskeim and proceeded south to Mutterstadt. The 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry and mortar laid preparations of 15 minutes fire I the town of Mutterstadt after receiving artillery and mortar fire, Company C of 56<sup>th</sup> AIB attached to Force Field, and working with Company A/714 as the point of the force, entered Mutterstadt encountering a roadblock and dismantling it.

22 Mar 1945: At 0600- the force entered Mutterstadt with immediate orders to attack south toward objective – Speyer. The 92d Recon supported by one platoon of tanks from Company A, led the advance of the force toward the objective. At 0710 six enemy tanks were reported to the force in vicinity south of Speyer in vicinity of the railroad running east and west. With the advance elements moving toward the objective, the force remained in Mutterstadt with Company C being detached to CC-B control.

23 Mar 1945: At 0600 a company commanders meeting was called, the order of march given to the force that remained in Mutterstadt as Company C/714 plus Company D/56, Company A (minus) plus one platoon of Company D/56, Headquarters Company plus Company D/714. At 0830 the column from Mutterstadt moving south with no enemy resistance reported as of 0918. The force location was reported to CO CC-B at 0918 with advance elements located 520852. At 0930 air reports that all bridges leading to Speyer are intact, by 0935 the force was located five kilometers south of Speyer. The tanks of the force will follow the infantry. At 0945 the point reported that anti-tank fire was being received from the edge of town. The 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry dismounted and sent ahead of the force with orders to deploy north in vicinity of Speyer for the attack on Speyer. At 0945 barrage balloons were up on Speyer. At 1000 it was reported that a bridge on the outskirts of Speyer had been blown and that the infantry deployed in this sector had received small arms fire. The commanding officer of Company C reported at 1300 that fire from enemy 88 AT guns was coming down the street with heavy small arms fire. Company A reported at 1320 that its elements were being held up by the same guns reported by Company "C". By 1330 the progress of the force was very slow due to heavy enemy anti-tank and small arms sniper fire. At 1336 Company C/56 and Company C/714 reported casualties in their organizations and requested that medical personnel be sent forward for evacuation. From the beginning of action of Speyer an undetermined number of PWs were captured in the vicinity. The reconnaissance platoon leader was ordered by Major Field to gather up all PWs and place them in an enclosure. At 1400 a message from Force Norton to Force Field reported that the 56<sup>th</sup> AIB were entering the town of Hanhoffen. At 1410 CO of Company C called for artillery fire on AT guns emplaced on the edge of Speyer. The force progress was slow at this time due to heavy enemy small arms which held up the infantry and anti-tank guns which were delaying the tanks. At 1524 Lt Kresge, platoon leader of Company A, entered Speyer with his platoon firing at all enemy installations resulting in the capture of many prisoners. At 1505 a message from Major Field to his force ordered that elements of the remaining tank companies are to attack the open field and seize the north end of town. Company A/714 over-ran large caliber guns on reaching the edge of Speyer. Company B/56 AIB having moved to this sector now occupied a portion of town to the right of the force advance. At 1545 Company A with 11 tanks had crossed the railroad tracks at the edge of town. At 1630 the force less Headquarters Company moved into Speyer with a meeting of company commanders for the purpose of regrouping. The force moved on through town encountering a roadblock, suffering some casualties.

24 Mar 1945: At 0500 on this date elements of the infantry reported that the roadblock was out and the force proceeded into town.

*(no further narrative entries for March in the source document from F. P. Field)*

Signed

F. P. FIELD, Major, Cavalry, Commanding

## 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.

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
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.



<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
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.

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
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.

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
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.

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
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.

## OFFICERS ROSTER – 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – MARCH 1945

### Battalion Headquarters

Major Frederick P Field	Commanding
Major William R Comfort	Exec Officer
Major James M Boone	S-3
Capt Robert C Kelly	S-2
Capt Morris Schwartz	Communications Officer
Capt John K Shipe	S-4
Capt Charles E Jenkins	Division GRO
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Joe C Carlson	S-1
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath	Liaison Officer

### Headquarters Company

Capt George Harding	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor	Reconnaissance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold A Sleeman	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	Mortar Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James R Jenks	Assault Gun Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Abe H Traktman	SSO – EFM – Bn Gas Officer

### Company A

Capt Robert W Harrington	Commanding to Hospital
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin	Maintenance Officer to Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt George M Branson	Tank Platoon Leader – Battlefield Appointment

### Company B

Capt James W Leehman	Commanding to Hospital
Capt Herbert E Magruder	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Goad	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles E Hisiger	Tank Platoon Leader; Missing in Action
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Philpott	Tank Platoon Leader to Hospital

## OFFICERS ROSTER for MARCH 1945 (Continued)

### Company C

Capt Charles C Clayton	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold S Landau	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Richard P LaFrance	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt John N McDougal	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps	Tank Platoon Leader

### Company D

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt John G Cook	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William W Turley	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William J Venema	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta	Tank Platoon Leader to Hospital

### Service Company

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt	Commanding
Capt John E Stuerwald	Battalion Motor Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Casmir F Grochowski	Company Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer
CWO Joseph T Collins	Personnel Officer
WOJG George M Frost	Supply & Evacuation Staff Officer
WOJG Charles D Frazier	Motor Transportation Officer

### Medics

Capt Garfield S Barnet	Medical Officer – General Surgery
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Leonard D Wentworth	Medical Assistant – MAC

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – CASUALTY REPORT FOR MARCH 1945

### KIA

S/Sgt Hubert E Barnes, 351042229	Co A
Cpl Arnel S Harman, 35644550	Co A
Pfc John E Blackburn, Jr, 35585952	Co B
Tec 5 Manley M Warren, 6143559	Co B
Pfc LeRoy Davidson, 37315957	Co D

### DOW

Negative

### MIA

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles E Hisiger, 01017783	Co B
S/Sgt Ward A Dodge, 32354407	Co B
Cpl Jules Berlin, 36662228	Co B
Cpl Densil R Renick, 35449970	Co B
Cpl William W Russell, 33265062	Co B
Cpl Hobert Osborne, 35677063	Co B
Cpl Thomas M Sams, 34595988	Co B
Pfc John Gulezian, 33579817	Co B
Pfc Robert L Kecyon, 33465290	Co B
Pfc Ulysses Kelley, 33395656	Co B
Pfc Richard W Thomas, 35589471	Co B
Pfc Fred Dodge, 39195070	Co B
Pvt William Schulman, 19084500	Co B
Pvt James K Turner, 33897283	Co B
Pvt James T Tucker, 35781650	Co B
Tec 5 Merle B Loomis, 37539484	Co B
Pfc Royce E Smith, 36748370	Co B
Pvt Donald R Hendrickson, 37642339	Co B
Pvt Stanley Kulpinjke, 31464963	Co B
Tec 5 William H Shaw, 36426388	Co B

### WIA

Sgt Warren M Bartlett, 32528263	Hq Co
Sgt Glenn H Miller, 33058104	Co A
Cpl Harold F Meyer, 35344378	Co A
Pvt Thurman L Ansel, 35408714	Co A
S/Sgt Enoch C Morgan, 35740739	Co A

**714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION - AWARDS AND DECORATIONS – APRIL 1945**

**SILVER STAR**

Lt Col Frederick P Field, 0359720

GO 31 Sec I 14 Apr 45

**BRONZE STAR**

Lt Col Frederick P Field, 0359720

GO 31, Sec IV 14 Apr 45

S/Sgt Walter A Alverman, 36273975

GO 28, Sec III 1 Apr 45

S/Sgt Enoch C Morgan, 35740739

GO 28, Sec VI 1 Apr 45

Tec 4 George P Gray, 38036383

GO 28, Sec VI 1 Apr 45

Capt Robert W Herrington, 0372336

GO 31, Sec X 14 Apr 45

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Leonard D Wentworth, 02047537

GO 31, Sec VIII 14 Apr 45

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin, 01013371

GO 33, Sec IX 19 Apr 45

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Sgt Donald A Ungerez, 12047253

GO 28, Sec IX 1 Apr 45

S/Sgt Hubert Barnes, 36104229

GO 28, Sec X 1 Apr 45

Sgt Glenn H Miller, 33058104

GO 31, Sec VII 14 Apr 45



## 714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION - NARRATIVE OF EVENTS – APRIL 1945

1 Apr 1945: At 0630 Task Force Field moved out for Wolkshausen, Germany, enroute bazooka fire was encountered and the town was by-passed, moving on toward Gaukonigshofen. One enemy tank was sighted south of Hobestadt, Germany at 0925 by the point, Company A, and was knocked out. At 1000 the point was moving in on Ochsenfurt, Germany. The bridge at the Main River was believed to be in good condition. One enemy tank was sighted on the far side of the river, fired upon and knocked out. The bridge was reported blown at 1055 by Captain Charles C Clayton, Company C, but that only the center portion. The supports were still in good condition. One Mark V tank was fired on and knocked out. At 1300 Captain Charles C Clayton, Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, called for help from the assault gun platoon as he had sighted another enemy tank. The assault gun was not able to get into position fast enough, so Captain Clayton ordered his bulldozer into position, and with the aid of two light tanks, fired on and knocked out one enemy Mark IV tank. At 1425 Company D was ordered to attack, by surprise, the town of Markbret, Germany. One platoon of Company C 56<sup>th</sup> AIB was attached to Company D for this operation. The town was found heavily occupied by the enemy. Three light tanks were lost in the operation, five infantry casualties and five Company D men were casualties in this operation. Three men from Company D were listed as missing in action, and one man was killed in action. One of the three men listed missing in action was later recaptured when an enemy hospital was captured. However, many casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The task force CP was set up in Ochsenfurt, Germany at 1600. Bridge guard was established, security outposts and patrols were set up immediately.

2 Apr 1945: At 1100 a message was received from executive officer, CC-B, stating information that there was evidence of a Panzer Grenadier Division in the general vicinity of Staldorf, Germany (Coordinate 6010). At 2005 a company commanders meeting was called. The task force was alerted to move after 2400 on 15 minutes notice. The task force commander, Lt Col Frederick P Field, then Major, cautioned all company commanders of looting by personnel. Operation instructions were issued by CC-B with overlay, and the task force was alerted to move at 1400. A meeting of all officers was called at 1120 3 Apr 1945 to discuss plans for crossing the Main River and the assault on Wurzburg, Germany.

3 Apr 1945: At 1445 orders were changed also route and objective were changed to cross the Main River and proceed to Zeubelried, Germany, going into an assembly area at that point, facing north, the unit to turn south and secure the bridge at Markbret, Germany. The entire task force except Headquarters and Task Force trains were over the bridge at 1600. Tanks were definitely canalized and unable to move over the hill due to excellent dug-in enemy positions. Time fire by artillery was called for at this point. At 1800 the task force was still unable to obtain positions on hill. The task force commander called the commanding officer, CC-B, and informed him of the situation and told him that he planned on leaving Headquarters Section on the other side of the bridge, but was ordered to move the entire unit over. At 1915 Lt McConnel with the attached platoon of Company B 119<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion, was clearing a dud bomb from the road. Capt Clayton reported that his company was unable to move with Lt McConnel's platoon on the road. Col Charles V Bromley, CO, CC-B, appeared in the area to discuss the situation with the task force commander at 1915. At 1941 the task force commander requested to pull

back and consolidate positions. The request met with approval. The CP was set up and also outpost security.

4 Apr 1945: At 0200 enemy patrols infiltrated in to Ochsenfurt and destroyed two peeps belonging to Company B 119<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion, with grenades. Company B 56<sup>th</sup> AIB was attached to the task force for the operations on Erlach, Germany. The point moved out for Erlach, Germany, meeting slight resistance. Hq and Hq trains remained in Klein Ochsenfurt, Germany, waiting orders to move forward behind the force. At 1600 the tail of the column was hit by machine gun fire, turned and went back. At this time heavy artillery was coming in from front of the column. The S-2 halftrack was hit by machine gun fire. At 1635 the assault gun platoon fired three rounds of HE time fire in woods to the right of the column. The air OP reported enemy leaving Zeubelried and Erlach at this time. Lt McConnell and one enlisted man were killed by enemy machine gun fire. Several men were injured. Three men of Reconnaissance Platoon were also wounded. The point tank received AT fire and the tube of 76mm gun was shot off. At this time the task force commander urged movement in to defilade positions to bring fire on anti-tank guns. Three enemy tanks were spotted by the air OP in the woods (Coordinate 695250) at 1725. The tanks were reported moving toward the force. One enemy AT gun was knocked out by Company A at 1810. At 2155 the force, having taken Erlach, Germany moved in to assembly area for the night. During the afternoon and early evening, five enemy tanks and three 88mm guns were knocked out by the force.

5 Apr 1945: A company commanders meeting was held at the task force commander's tank at 0600. Ten enemy planes attacked forward elements by strafing and bombing. Observation plane was also attacked by one enemy plane. At 0830 no resistance was being encountered at Kitzengen, Germany. Capt Clayton reported roadblock at railroad underpass. The engineers were ordered to demolish it. The air OP reported the road bridge slightly damaged but the railroad bridge was blown. At 0940 the task force was moving in to Kitzengen. Capt Clayton reported one bazooka found and a number of snipers encountered. At 1200 the bridgehead at Kitzengen was secured by the task force. Combat Commander B was informed of the situation. At 1245 the 70<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, Company A and one battalion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division moved into Kitzengen. The task force was ordered to turn over the bridgehead to the other force and be prepared to move in any direction. Approximately 30 PWs were taken up to 1300. Artillery and mortar firing to the east side of the river. At 1330 French laborers claimed that German soldiers had been removing uniforms for civilian clothes and were leaving their posts. At 1600 the task force was preparing to send a flying column to Westheim, Germany. One hundred thirty enemy were reported entering town from the east. White phosphorous was reported falling south of Westheim by Company A. Air OP confirmed report. The task force commander cautioned the point not to fire on friendly troops. At 1635 it was reported that CC-A was entering Rottendorf, Germany. Friendly troops were reported firing on Westheim at 1640 and at 1725 the task force moved into position outside Westheim. Groups of Russians and Poles came out of town and announced that there were no enemy in the town. The commanding officer, Combat Command B, ordered the task force to move to Biebelreid, Germany and back to Kitzengen, Germany to flush out any

enemy force in the vicinity. At 1800 the task force moved through Biebelreid toward Reppeindorf, Germany, thence back to Kitzengen. Fifty PWs were taken with no opposition. The task force was ordered to remain in Kitzengen for the night and proceed on the original plan in the morning.

6 Apr 1945: A company commanders meeting was held at 0630 in preparation for moving. The task force moved out on its mission. No enemy resistance reported up to 1000. Company A 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion exploited Obrienbriet, Germany. Lt Vernon R Foster sighted one enemy tank and destroyed it. Orders received at 1200 were to go to Mainbernheim, Germany instead of moving to Hohenfeld and Markstaft, Germany to clear out any opposition the task force might encounter. At 1425 the town on Mainbernheim fell to the task force. A small task force was sent to Iphofen, Germany immediately upon arrival in Mainbernheim. The town of Iphofen unoccupied by enemy troops. Lt Col Frederick P Field, Task Force Commander, was awarded the Silver Star at 1600 by Col Charles V Bromley, Commanding Officer, CC-B, for gallantry in action. The task force remained in Mainbernheim performing maintenance on vehicles and resting of troops on 7 and 8 Apr 1945.

9 Apr 1945: At 1000 sixty one (61) reinforcements were received. At 1515 verbal orders were received alerting the unit for movement. A company commanders meeting was held at 1730 to discuss plans of movement order. The point moved out at 1830. Capt Clayton, Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, reported receiving a good deal of HE fire in the vicinity of Klein Langheim, Germany. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Richard P LaFrance was seriously wounded by enemy artillery fire. Artillery fire on the town was called for by the task force commander. Capt Clayton reported that fire was being received from opposite side of the creek. The mortar platoon was also firing into town. At 2300 the rocket launcher of Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, fired into town at an enemy wagon column.

10 Apr 1945: One tank from Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, was hit in the gun shield by bazooka fire at 0830. Another Company C tank was hit at 0915. Same type of fire was landing in assembly area but was light and harassing. The mortar platoon was firing smoke to cover Company C withdrawal. At 1315 Task Force Norton entered Klein Langheim from the north. A PW reported location of trains of opposing force and stated that the force numbered about three hundred. At 1430 the assistant S-3 of Combat Command B called for air to attack enemy trains. At 1640 Task Force Norton moved out on new objective with this task force blocking to the north. Castel, Germany was entered at 1700 and the task force remained there for the night. Refueling and resupply were accomplished immediately. Outposts were posted and security established for the night at 1700.

11 Apr 1945: At approximately 1030 the point moved out from Castel, Germany. At 1250 the assault gun platoon leader, Lt Jenks, sighted two 20mm anti-aircraft guns at railroad station in Schienfeld, Germany. Lt Jenks requested artillery fire on positions. One enemy tank was sighted by Company A in Markt Bibert, Germany. At 1255 two rounds of AT fire were received at this time. Many enemy were reported in town by Lt Vernon R Foster. The task force commander ordered Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, into position in an attempt to develop the situation. A PW claimed there were dug-in positions north and east of town and also two deployed enemy tanks with artillery support. The task

force commander requested air support in the south of town at 1530, but warned the air liaison officer not to bomb in town as infantry was ready to move in. Markt Bibart was entered by the task force at 1700. Security was posted and the unit prepared to spend the night. One enemy panther tank, with crew intact, was captured by Major William R Comfort, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt John G Cook, with four light tanks.

12 Apr 1945: A company commanders meeting was held at 0630 in preparation for move. The point moved out at 0745. One enemy tank was knocked out at 0830 by the point tank of Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. The task force commander reported to Combat Command B and confirmed the destruction of four (4) enemy tanks during the previous twenty-four (24) hours. The force was advancing to Krautosheim at 1000 with orders to move into assembly area at that point before jumping off to a new objective. At 1015 Company D, last tank knocked out one Mark IV tank and took five prisoners after force had passed through. Enemy tank was located near tank that Clayton had knocked out previously. Commanding Officer, CC-B instructed Task Force Commander at 1020 to pull into Krautosheim and consolidate until Task Force Norton could be moved into secure all-around protection. Also to look over terrain to be negotiated on route to new objective. At 1020 Capt Clayton knocked out staff car at the edge of Krautosheim. Air OP reported staff car, one light tank and two track vehicles at crossroads out of Krautosheim. Capt Clayton located in the center of town was unable to see these vehicles. At 1030 Company D knocked out one anti-tank gun. At 1035 was a report that a German General by the name of Von Bonn was in this area. The task force commander ordered the infantry to go through the town thoroughly and to look for staff officers. Lt Cook with Company D was ordered on a reconnaissance mission to Ingalstadt. Lt Cook reported horse-drawn vehicles leaving Rottenheim for the hills. Lt MacLaughlin stated that he could bring fire on the vehicles. Task Force Commander said to fire on them. At 1205 Capt Clayton stated he had knocked out one anti-tank gun and observed a column leaving Berolsheim. The Task Force Commander requested air OP to observe and call for time fire on the column. At 1215 Capt Clayton reported three more trucks knocked out and one Mark IV tank. Lt Cook reported that he had knocked out one vehicle and sighted friendly troops entering town of Ingalstadt. At 1300 air force attacked town of Herbolzheim on request to check enemy evacuating town. Lt Cook took 25 prisoners and killed five of the enemy, also wrecked one horse-drawn column and destroyed one anti-tank gun which was believed to be a tank before at Ingalstadt. At 1500 the task force point under command of Capt Clayton moved into Markt Nordheim, encountering no resistance. Civilians reported to Capt Clayton that both bridges were mined. Capt Clayton used prisoners to remove the mines. Approximately 35 prisoners were taken in town. The unit set up their CP in town.

13 Apr 1945: At 0800 the task force received overlays for small task forces to occupy towns in the vicinity. Lt Cook with a small task force occupied the town of Humprechtsua, reported that he had encountered no resistance but found mines in two blocks of the town. Commanding Officer of Combat Command called a meeting at 1100 and gave orders for task force formation and information for commander to work on task forces. Orders were as follows: Task Force Clayton, one platoon of tanks plus two tanks, plus one platoon of infantry, and objective was Rudisbronn 95108; Task Force MacLaughlin, Company A plus one platoon of infantry, objective was Hercteau 9210; Task Force

Trusley, one platoon of tanks plus Company C 56 AIB, objective was Mulesheim; Task Force Cook, Company D plus tanks from Company C plus one platoon of infantry, mission to hold Herbolzheim in reserve. The mission of all forces was: reconnaissance in force, if the objectives were free of enemy, to occupy, if town was held in force by enemy, to get on high ground and hold what ground they had. Task Force Comfort: Battalion Headquarters plus Mortar Platoon and Assault Guns to move to Krautosheim and set up CP. One Medic peep per force. Medical Aid Station located at CP. The infantry was broken down as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon to Task Force McLaughlin, 4<sup>th</sup> platoon to Task Force Clayton, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> platoons to Task Force Cook. At 1315 the Task Force moved out for their objectives. At 1415 Battalion Headquarters with Mortars and Assault Guns moved to Krautosheim and set up the CP.

14 Apr 1945: The unit was ordered to move to Ulstadt. At 1300 the Task Forces were relieved of their missions and unit consolidated with Headquarters, to move and secure bridgehead at Dietersheim. The initial movement was to Hasenlohe. Task Force moved from assembly area at Ulstadt at 1415. Order of march: A Company 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion plus one platoon of infantry, assault guns, Company C 56<sup>th</sup> AIB, Company C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, D Company 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. At 1515 the point reached the town of Dietersheim. The town was flying a white flag and both the bridges were intact and not mined. The point tank had at this time crossed the first bridge but could not cross the second bridge because it was not strong enough to hold tanks. Lt Jenks reported that he had received direct fire at 1535, one round HE hit about 10 yards from his tank. At 1600 center of column received artillery fire; the command halftrack and trains moved back to defilade. The Commanding Officer requested Air OP to try to locate enemy gun positions. Col Field, at 1615, requested Engineers to bring up two spans of treadway to bridge site as the bridge had collapsed. Col Bromley with Col Field at the bridge site at this time. Remainder of Task Force Field crossed the bridge at Dietersheim at 2000. Orders from CC-B: To establish bridgehead and post security for the night. Lt McLaughlin to hold the high ground to northeast of town with Company C 56 AIB attached and Clayton with Company B 56<sup>th</sup> AIB attached to remain southeast of town. CC-B to remain in Unter Nesselbach with Col Norton's Force. CO went to CC-B for instructions for following day's operations. At 2100 a medical peep hit two mines injuring one man of the Medical Detachment 56<sup>th</sup> AIB. Engineers to sweep roads in the morning. Mortar fire fell on force's elements on outposts at 2240. Lt Jenks observed mortars on side of a hill and adjusted artillery fire on this point. It was believed that this fire knocked out mortars as no more fire was received during the remainder of the night. At 2300 operational instructions were received for 15 April, with overlay.

15 Apr 1945: At 0400 Company A reported heavy vehicular movement to the direct front. Company C also reports enemy tanks in the vicinity to the southeast. At 0500 two PWs walked through the lines and were interned by Company A. Company commanders meeting at 0530, operations instructions given with order of march, overlay and instructions were attached.

Unit moved out toward Hermusneuses at 0630. At 0730 considerable small arms fire received from dense woods. A halftrack hit a mine killing two men of Company C, 56<sup>th</sup> AIB. Column receiving scattered and harassing artillery. At 1012 a PW reported approximately 1000 enemy troops in vicinity of Beerbach and Rossbach. Task Force Field now entering Unter Rossbach. At 1040 the point moved into Ober Rossbach. Lt McLaughlin knocked out one truck with ammunition and food, also one US model jeep. Lt McLaughlin reported the point had destroyed another truck on east side of woods at 1115. At 1300 Task Force Field was into assembly area at Hermusneuses. CO directs Lt McLaughlin to hold high ground east of town, also CO directs Reconnaissance Platoon to the main highway to await Col Norton's Force reaching the objective. A Polish PW reported that three 105mm guns are in the rear of Col Field's Force. Lt Cook with a platoon of light tanks sent to reconnoiter the woods. Lt Cook found the previous location of the guns, at the same time the rear of the column was hit by sniper and SA fire. Lt Cook held hot fire on the woods while the column clears. Lt Cook evacuated with head wound. Company C's Rocket Commander and Company A's First Sergeant also wounded. At this time intense artillery fire was being received in town of Hermusneuses. At 1600 Company and separate platoon commanders called to CP, intense artillery still was coming in. The unit was ordered to move to Mosbach at 1805, the town was reported to be cleared out by the 56 AIB at 2000. CC-B decided force should stay in Schellert as Mosbach was not large enough. The companies outposted for the night, no unusual activity during the night. Movement orders for 16 April were received at 2200.

16 Apr 1945: At 0800 the unit prepared to move out. Unit moved out at 0830. At 1000 the point sighted Markt Erlbach. CO CC-B stated not to waste any time clearing the town and to go through as quickly as possible. Air OP reported at 1025 stating the bridge at Adelsdorf was out. The engineers were directed to survey and estimate the necessary repairs. Air bursts and ground fire received on rear positions and tanks of Company A. At 1500 a patrol of Company D encountered a minefield; one tank was damaged. At 1555 bridge was completed and CO ordered Lt Trusley to move out. Capt Clayton entered Kirch Farnbach at 1720 with orders to outpost for the night. CO CC-B decided to make a dash for next objective in order to secure bridge for next day's objective. At 1800 intense artillery fire was received between Eberndorf and Kirchheimbach. Also vehicles were observed in this area. CO called artillery support to try to locate enemy guns. At 2000 the task force was ordered to spend the night at that location. Capt Clayton found and destroyed a large caliber gun, one airplane, and a number of horses and wagons which were still hitched up. Lt McLaughlin saw a hanger and supply dump and destroyed them. At 2020 Capt Clayton reported that he had destroyed two 170mm guns and a number of crated bombs at the airfield. Some machine gun fire was received by the outposts at 2300; artillery was called on this area.

17 Apr 1945: At 0245 a company commanders meeting was held and orders for the day's movement were given. The force jumped off at 0700 with Company A as the point. At 0745 Lt McLaughlin reported that he had located a tank in a shed and two more at a greater

range. At 0800 the point moved to Gross Habersdorf, located two box car, one staff car, and three trucks and destroyed them. At 1230 Capt Wilson had the bridge in condition and the column moved. A minefield was encountered at 1300; the engineers removed the mines and the column proceeded slowly. The lead tank of the point was hit by a panzerfaust. The forward observer was trying to locate the guns that were firing into bridge site and also laying time fire around column. The firing ceased but air OP continued to try to locate the guns. Lt Dethloff observed four or five enemy on apparent OP and fired on them; they dispersed but apparently were not hit. At 1315 the bridge gave way directly in front of Lt Jenks but the engineers, by reinforcing the bridge, soon moved the remainder of the force over. At 1500 the force was moving but running into considerable small arms fire and panzerfaust. At 1600 there was no change in the situation. Capt Clayton moved on to Bonhoff and stated that he could see into town but could not observe any action that might indicate the enemy in town. At 1700 the force was still moving. At 18230 Capt Clayton had high ground overlooking Heilbronn. Colonel Norton's force was emerging from the woods at 1825 approximately 2000 yards northeast of Capt Clayton's position; both forces were aware of each other's presence. The CO informed CO of CC-B of trouble in getting through, because of numerous mines that were laid and other obstacles such as craters and a blown bridge. The force went into the assembly area at 2200, no unusual activities.

18 Apr 1945: The force in Heilbronn was alerted to move at 1115. A number of 20mm guns, tank sights, periscope lenses, medical supplies and x-ray equipment were found in the schoolhouse in Heilbronn at 0930. At 1240 leading elements encountered mines in vicinity of 1286. The Engineer platoon swept the area. The forward elements knocked out one towed 75mm AT gun at 1300. At 1320 the forward element received direct AT fire and HE, one round of AP went over the command halftrack. The leading elements moved through woods toward Wustendorf at 1400, progress was slow due to road by-pass limited the number of vehicles. At 1630 the force jumped off for final drive into Ansbach. At 1700 Capt Clayton reported that he had destroyed three 88s, one 105 Howitzer, and two (illegible). Two hundred PWs were taken up to this time. A combat patrol led by Lt Trusley received some time fire at 1800. At 1830 Col Bromley ordered that the force remain in its present location until he cleared a suitable route into town.

19 Apr 1945: At 1900 (Col Bromley?) reported that he had encountered a hastily constructed road block and could remove it. The force moved into Ansbach at 2000. The CP was established for the night. The entire Division Elements moving in. An order to move to Feuchtwangen was received at 1000. Route of march on overlay. At 1600 the remainder of the force moved out. Lt McLaughlin on the point with one squad of Engineers and one platoon of infantry attached with orders to move out to objective as flying task force. The order of march for the rear elements was as follows: Company C plus one platoon infantry; Command Section with Tanks; Company C/56 AIB minus two platoons; Assault Gun Platoon; Mortar Platoon, followed by Hq and Hq Company; Engineers; Company D.

Service Company to remain in Ansbach. At 1600 the force was moving at a very fast rate. The road condition was poor. The second bridge at Herridon fell through and was by-passed. At 2040 the bridge at Ober-Schonnbronn fell through. AP fire was received in vicinity of Ober-Schonnbronn. The force turned back and by-passed to the northeast over the bridge at Bockaus. Company A on the point continue to Aichan. An apparent minefield was investigated by Company A. At 2100 the remainder of the force cleared the bridge at Bockaus. Artillery and smoke was laid at Ober-Schonnbronn to screen the by-pass. At 2120 a lucky round of artillery hit an ammunition dump in the vicinity of Ober-Schonnbronn, the dump exploded. The force closed into the assembly area at Aichen at 2140. Local security was set. Fourteen PWs were taken during the day's operation. A company commanders meeting was called at 2200 and orders were issued for next day's operations.

20 Apr 1945: The force moved to support Task Force Norton at Feuchtwangen at 0600. At 0700 the force moved to the high ground east of Feuchtwangen. Capt Clayton and Lt McLaughlin moved into position overlooking the town and observed some activity. Lt McLaughlin fired on some enemy trying to infiltrate into town at 0800. No contact was made at 0730 with CC-R who was supposed to have moved into and occupy the town. The force was ordered to fire only south of gridline 67. At 0900 permission was granted to move in and attack the town because CC-R was held up. Task Force Norton and Task Force Field ordered to take the town. Task Force Norton moved into town and Task Force Fields was to protect the south flank of town. At 1220 TFF entered town and established a CP. Outposts of tanks and infantry were set up west of the railroad. Three rounds of AP received in Company A's vicinity, no information of where the rounds came from could be obtained. A combat patrol of one platoon of light tanks plus a squad of infantry under Lt Turley encountered a roadblock and cleared same. No resistance was met. A total of 12 PWs were taken during the day's operations.

21 Apr 1945: At 0800 the force was in an assembly area in Feuchtwangen. No unusual activities. At 2100 force received orders for march to vicinity of Zobingen. At 2200 an order to extend objective to Bopfingen was received. The force was alerted to move at 220630. No PWs taken during the day's operations.

22 Apr 1945: The task force moved out at 0630 with Bopfingen, Germany as its objective. No enemy opposition was met along the route. Bopfingen was reached at 1020 and unit was ordered to move on to Ohmenheim, Germany. At 1600 Steinheim, Germany was taken and the CP established for the night with usual security outposts and patrols instituted. One hundred twenty-nine PWs were taken during the day's operations.

23 Apr 1945: At 0730 the Task Force was attached to Combat Command A and ordered to proceed immediately to Dilligen, Germany to pass through the established bridgehead to Holzheim, Germany. Enroute, Company C knocked out two enemy 88mm guns. The Task Force



closed in Holzheim at 1200. A Company C patrol released 600 Allied prisoners of war. In addition, 20 American PWs were released, 67 PWs were taken, and 11 enemy AT Guns were destroyed. Estimated 101 enemy killed during the day.

24 Apr 1945: The Task Force remained in Holzheim, Germany until 242000 April, when ordered to move to the vicinity of Aislingen, Germany and then to Gundemmingen, Germany. A patrol from Company D was sent out to reconnoiter bridges, and reported the bridge at the railroad and the autobahn south of Burgau was intact but mined. An enemy plane that had crashed was spotted by the patrol. Total PWs for the day was nine.

25 Apr 1945: A company commanders meeting was called at 0400 to issue orders for the day's operations. The Task Force moved out. At 0730 the point, Company A, reported moving into Remshart, Germany. The Company Commander of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin, reported the point had pushed through the town ahead and encountered a large number of enemy in a draw. At 1119, approximately 200 PWs had been taken. Nebelwerfer fire was received, believed to be coming from the vicinity of Gunzberg, Germany. The Air OP reported that the artillery had fired on guns that were believed to have fired on the rear elements of the column, and guaranteed that they had been knocked out. The bridge on the autobahn was reported to have been blown at 1200. At 1230 six explosions were observed in the vicinity of Gunzberg, Germany. It was believed to have been bridges of ammunition dumps being blown. The Task Force Commander informed Combat Command B that PWs and civilians had stated that the headquarters of two battalions and several hundred enemy were located in Offingen. At 1400 C/56 was meeting heavy small arms fire from the woods to the right while trying to work into town. The situation developed into house-to-house fighting. The infantry was withdrawn to more favorable positions at 1610, D/56 was attached to assist in attacking the town. The 494<sup>th</sup> FA fired an intense barrage into the woods before the infantry moved into town. The Assault Gun Platoon, Mortar Platoon and Company C rocket launcher also fired into town prior to the attack by the infantry. The two infantry companies, C/56 and D/56, received intense small arms fire and many hand grenades while attacking the town. Company D, 56 AIB reached the objective and called for Company C, 56 AIB to move up to protect the left flank. Colonel Charles V Bromley congratulated D Company 56<sup>th</sup> AIB on a job well done. The Force pulled back to Rettenbach for consolidation. The CP was set up at 2200 and security posted. A counter-attack was expected. Four hundred forty-one prisoners were taken during the day's operations. Around midnight unknown artillery was falling in the vicinity of town.

26 Apr 1945: At 0020 Federal (63 Inf) was fighting against stiff opposition north of G-town and in LEI. At 0200 the Force was in the assembly area in Rettenbach, unknown artillery was coming. At 0700 a patrol was sent in direction of Offingen. The civilians reported that Offingen was clear of the enemy. A patrol from Company D 56<sup>th</sup> AIB plus one platoon of Co D 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was sent to investigate. At 0830 a patrol from Co C 56<sup>th</sup> AIB plus one platoon Co D 714<sup>th</sup> was sent in the direction of Reisenberg. Two 81mm mortars were destroyed

and a number of panzerfausts. One platoon of infantry of Co C 56<sup>th</sup> plus one platoon Co C, 714<sup>th</sup> was sent to Borgau to clean out the enemy that had infiltrated. Artillery was being laid in vicinity of Borgau. At 0930 a counter-attack was developing against the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in the vicinity of Leipheim and Gunzberg. The Force was alerted to move to Gunzberg to wipe out the counter-attack. Lt Trusley's patrol to Reisenberg was recalled. At 1003 civilians reported SS troops approaching Offingen. The patrol at Offingen reported seeing six SS troops from OP. Air OP going up to investigate. The patrol observed a few troops in the woods. At 1020 Belgians and Poles reported three batteries of small artillery and lot of 40mm ack ack in Gunzberg. It was reported that at 0700 the SS troops left Offingen to get 50 other SS troops and were to return. At 1110 orders were changed to remain in present position and clean out Offingen. The plan was to move Lt Trusley northwest to the railroad and pivot to the right and work toward Lt Blair who is going through town. Lt (Turley?) was to contact the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Gunzberg and maintain liaison with that unit. At 1130 Lt Blair reported that he had reached the Danube River and seen only a few enemy. At 1135 Lt Blair reported that he had cleared the town and had outposted along the railroad, also that he had 15 or 20 prisoners. At 1142 Lt Turley with patrol cleared a roadblock and reported that there was a crater on the Offingen side of the bridge leading to Gundemmingen. Major Boone on the way at 1145 to contact Lt Blair with the OI on the coordinated attack. Lt Blair was to contact both Lt Cook and Major Boone. Major Boone contacted friendly forces on high ground north of forces' position at 1200. Major Boone made arrangements to coordinate movement of both forces. The objective of the 63<sup>rd</sup> was to secure the high ground north of the railroad. One battalion was to move through the woods toward Offingen. Major Boone contacted Lt Blair and Lt Cook and notified them of the situation. At 1205 friendly troops moved in from the west. Positions were held in Offingen until the friendly troops arrived. An officer from the 63<sup>rd</sup> reported into the CP and informed the CO of his mission and relative positions and also stated that his unit had thrown the artillery that the force had received during the night, and that they had planned on laying down a heavy barrage in the town of Offingen. Col Bromley went to the CP at 1220 and gave new movement orders to proceed to Gunzberg. At 1320 Capt Clayton reported that he had cleared Gunzberg. At 1330 the CO CC-B directed the main body to halt just east of the railroad, and that the point proceed cautiously to Leipheim. Capt Clayton reported that his lead elements were in Leipheim at 1330, also reported that he had contacted friendly troops who had been counterattacked twice during the night and once during the morning. At 1500 the Force halted at Gunzberg, turned around and returned on the route as before through Rettenbach and then to Burgau. At 1630 Capt Zabroski, CC-B met resistance on west side of town as he was entering. The enemy had infiltrated patrols during the night, also a large number were in the woods south of the main highway. The CP was established in Burgau at 1800, after the artillery and tanks had cleared the enemy from the town and woods. Thirty-one PWs were taken during the day's operations.

27 Apr 1945: At 0700 an order was received from CC-B to be prepared to march at 1000, route of march on overlay. A company commanders meeting called at 0900 and the OI

and march order were given to the companies. An order to move was received at 1030. At 1050 the column halted at the tail of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division column which was headed in the same direction. At 1130 the column was moving very slowly. CC-B informed the CO that the bridge at Zietmanshausen was out and was being repaired, and possibly this was the hold up. At 1140 the destination was changed. The unit was to proceed to Heltinfingen. The CO called the Exec Officer, Capt Clayton, Lt McLaughlin to the command tank for instructions. The unit moved into Langeringen and set up the CP at 1730. No resistance was met. At 2000 a patrol of three light tanks under Lt Pagnotta plus one squad of infantry was sent out to contact CC-A at Landsberg. Liaison was effected with 253 Infantry CP at Schwabmunchen at 2040. At 2135 Company D reported that they had no radio contact with their patrol and would report to the CP at first contact. At 2315 Company D still had not contacted the patrol. CC-B's LO called and stated that no bridgehead had been made, also that he would try to contact the patrol to CC-A if communication was available, also stated that CC-A was at Landsberg.

28 Apr 1945: At 0007 the patrol to CC-A returned and made contact. The patrol leader reported the following: 23 American PWs were released at Lamerdergen (2548), one German PW taken at Lamerdergen (2548), no enemy contacted enroute, friendly troops contacted at Buchloe (2342), 19<sup>th</sup> Engineer and 90<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron, CC-A 12<sup>th</sup> AD contacted at Landsberg (3445). The patrol leader returned with CC-A's OI for 28 Apr 1945. A copy of the OI was made for TFF and the original sent to CC-B. The patrol leader left for CC-B at 0050 with the OI and four PWs. The American PWs were taken to C/56 for billets. An overlay and roster of the American PWs were sent to CC-B. At 0800 the unit was placed on a one-hour alert. At 0915 a combat patrol was sent out to reconnoiter the route to the bridgeheads. At 1015 S-4 reported that the mail clerk had run into nine knocked out US trucks at 0950 at the southern edge of Grossaitingen (259619). One round of HE was fired at him, the round was believed to have come from the woods at 2063. This information was released to CC-B at 1020. At 1145 25 PWs who were captured by the Company D patrol were turned over to CC-B's PW cage. At 1200 the patrol returned. At 1500 the force was alerted to move in compliance with OI issued at 1430. At 1700 no unusual activities, the force was waiting orders to move. At 1930 the CO went to CC-B for a meeting. At 2100 company commanders meeting was called and orders to move would not be issued before morning. Forty-three PWs were taken.

29 Apr 1945: The force was alerted to move at 0900; at 1100 the force moved out for the objective. The force moved at a good rate of speed. The route of march was slightly changed: the force was to continue to Weilheim. At 2000 one ME109 was shot down by Company D. The force was ordered to hold up in Weilheim for the night. At 2300 the CP was established and the force billeted. Twelve PWs were taken during the day's operations.

30 Apr 1945: At 0600 the force was still in Weilheim and awaiting orders to move. At 0800 the force was ordered to move on original route after the Engineers had cleared. The point moved out at 0830. At 0915 the rear of the column cleared Weilheim. The column halted

on the highway. A report came through that Task Force Norton had encountered light resistance at 1015. At 1100 a report came through that 5000 SS troops were stationed at the school in Bad Tols. At 1200 the force closed into the town of Habach and the CP was established. No unusual activities. At 1600 the CO went to CC-B and returned with orders to move by infiltration to the town of Durnheim and await further operation instructions. At 1800 the force moved into the town of Sindelsdorf and the CP established. The CO returned from CC-B at 2100 with the OI for 1 May. A company commanders meeting was called and the following instructions issued: CC-B was to jump off and establish a bridgehead at 778095, then move to and seize town of Kochel. Company B 119<sup>th</sup> Engineers to put in a bailey bridge. Company C 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion to move to north of bridge site in the approximate vicinity of the east sweep of the river. Company C 56<sup>th</sup> AIB in an assembly position west of the river to act as reserve of Task Force Norton. Task Force Field to pass through the bridgehead to Kochel as Kochel as objective. Order of crossing: Company A plus one platoon infantry, command section C/56, assault guns, mortar, C/714, D/714. Battalion CP to remain in its present location until given an order to move. To be executed on order. At 2200 no unusual activities had occurred. Fourteen PWs were taken during the day's operations.

**LISTING OF INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC FOR APRIL 1945**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
<u>IN</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATED</u>	
	1	010650	Unit moved out for Wolkshausen, encountered more bazooka fire, by-passed town and moved toward Geukonigshofen
	2	010925	McLaughlin sighted one tank and knocked it out vicinity south of Hohestedt
	3	011100	Point moving in on Gohensfurt. Bridge at river believed to be in good condition, one tank sighted on other side of the river, fire brought on tank knocked it out
	4	011035	Bridge center span blown as unit entered town
	5	011055	Clayton reported that center span of bridge is blown but can be repaired. Supports are still good. One Mark V tank fired on and knocked out
	6	011300	Clayton's bulldozer with two light tanks knocked out another tank
	7	011425	Co B ordered to attack by surprise the town of Berkthret with one platoon of infantry. Town found heavily occupied, due to lack of knowledge, little accomplished. Three light tanks were knocked out, 3 casualties, 5 infantry casualties
	8	011600	CP set up in Conensfurt, bridge guard established security outposts. Patrols set up
	1	020600	Usual duties around CP
1100	2	021100	Message received from Ex Off, CC-B stating info received that there is evidence of a Panzer Grenadier Div in general vicinity at Staldorf, Coord 6010
	3	022005	Co commanders meeting. CC cautions unit commanders of looting by personnel. Unit alerted to move after 2400 on 15 minutes notice.
	1	031120	CO called meeting of all officers to discuss plans for crossing and assault on Wurzburg
0800	2	030400	Operations Instructions were issued by CC-B with overlay. Unit alerted to move at 1400
1445	3	031445	Orders changed, route and objective changed. Unit to cross river and proceed to Zeubelried going into assembly area at that point facing north, then unit to turn south and secure bridge at Marktbret.
	4	031600	All of force over bridge except Hq and trains. Tanks are definitely canalized and unable to move over hill due to enemy dug in position. Artillery laying time fire over enemy dug in out on hill
	5	031800	Force still unable to negotiate positions on hill. CO calls CC-B and informs him that he must pull back to proximity of bridge and was planning on leaving Hq Section on other side of bridge, but higher hq says to move entire unit over

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
6	031915	McConnel removing dud bomb from road. Clayton reports unable to move until McConnel clears
7	031935	CO CC-B appears in area to talk to Field
8	031941	Command Section crosses bridge
9	032100	CO requests to pull back and consolidate positions. CP set up for night. One tank from Company A stuck; TRVs sent to take care of tank. Outpost posted
1	040200	Enemy patrols infiltrated into Cohensfurt, two peeps destroyed belonging to B/119 with enemy grenades
2	040400	Infantry Co B/56 attached to Force Fields for operations on Erlach
3	040700	Point moved out for Erlach, meeting slight resistance
4	041100	Hq and Hq Trains still in Kl. Ochsenfurt waiting orders to move forward behind main force
5	041500	Unit moving over hill to assembly area
6	041600	Tail of column hit by MG fire, turned and went back. Heavy artillery fire coming in from front landing in woods. MG fire received on S-2 track
7	041635	Jenks right AG lays three rounds HE heavy time fire landing in woods to right along edge
8	041640	Air OP reports enemy leaving Zeubelried and Erlach
9	041650	Wilson reports halftrack in our rear column hit. Lt McConnell killed and one man, several men injured. One reconnaissance peep hit by MG fire, three men hurt badly
10	041705	Lead tank of point got tube shot off by AT. CO urges to move into defilade to bring fire on ATs
11	041725	Air OP reports light tank leaving town from north. Clayton trying to spot it. Three tanks spotted in woods at 695250
12	041759	Tanks reported moving toward us. Field calls Cook to guard halftracks. McLaughlin called forward. Clayton moving around woods to left. Mac coming around to move to north
13	041810	Mac knocked out AT gun
14	041815	Force Field leading elements at 685258, reported to CC-B
15	042155	Unit taken Erlach moved into assembly area for night. Five enemy tanks, three 88s knocked out during afternoon and early evening, few PWs. 4 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Div doughs with one company 70 Tank Battalion moved up and took Zeuberied. Reconnaissance Platoon: 3 men wounded in peep, Sgt Phillips, Pvt Boone and Pvt Greenan
1	050600	Unit commanders meeting at CO-s tank
2	050715	Ten planes attacked forward elements by strafing and bombs. Command section with halftracks in rear of column strafed. Observation plane overhead also attacked by one plane
3	050830	No resistance being encountered at Kitzengen
4	050845	Clayton reports roadblock at railroad underpass; Engineers to demolish. Air OP reports road bridge slightly damaged, railroad bridge is blown
5	050940	Unit moving into Kitzengen. Clayton reports one bazooka found and number of snipers encountered
6	051200	Bridgehead secured by Force Field. CO CC-B informed of situation by Field
7	051245	70 <sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, A Co and Infantry Battalion moved into town
8	051315	CO CC-B orders to turn over bridgehead to other force and prepare to move in any direction
9	05-----	Approximately 30 PWs taken up to 1300. Artillery and mortar firing to east side of river
10	051350	French laborers say German soldiers had been removing uniforms for civilian clothes and were leaving their posts
11	051600	Unit in Kitzengen preparing to send flying column to Vesthies. One hundred thirty enemy reported entering town from east
12	051630	Point of Mac reports WP falling south of Westheim. Air OP reports same. CO cautions Mac not to fire on friendly troops

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
13	051635	CC-A entering Rottendorf
14	051640	Friendly troops firing on Westheim
15	051725	Unit moved into position outside Westheim. Group of Russians and Poles came out of town and announced there were no enemy or opposition in the town
16	051730	CO CC-B orders to move out to Biebelreid and back to Kitzengen and flush out whatever force can find
17	051800	Unit moving through Biebelried toward Reppeindorf thence to Kitzengen. Fifty PWs taken with no opposition. Unit ordered to rest in Kitzengen for night and proceed on original plan in morning
1	060630	Company commanders meeting for preparation of move
2	060900	Unit resupplied and refueled
3	060930	Force moved out on mission
4	061000	Unit meeting no resistance in Nichelfeld. Mac exploiting to Obrienbriet. Foster sighted and knocked out one tank
5	061115	Markt Bret reported cleared and occupied by Div, ordered no firing into town. Force Field ordered to move north and exploit town of Hohenfeld and Marktstaf for presence of enemy
6	061120	Unit turning about preparation for move to north
7	061200	Orders to move to Hohenfeld and Marktstaf changed, to return to Kitzengen
8	061300	CC-B orders to move to Mainbernheim and clean out any opposition force might encounter
9	061425	Unit in Mainbernheim, no opposition, no prisoners. Small task force sent to town of Iphofen and found town unoccupied by enemy troops. Norton reports location at 820257.
10	06-----	Force confirms one Mark IV tank and one halftrack knocked out by Jenks and Foster, in addition to the five tanks on 4 April
11	061600	Major Field awarded Silver Star
1	07-----	Unit in Mainbernheim. No activities
1	080800	Unit in Mainbernheim, consolidating and performing maintenance
1	090800	Patrol and outpost instituted during night, no unusual activity noted
2	092400	No unusual activities, usual patrols and duties were carried out throughout day
1	090800	No unusual activity in area
2	091000	Sixty-one reinforcements received
3	091515	Unit alerted to move (verbal orders)
4	091730	Company commanders meeting held to discuss plans of order of movement
5	091830	Point moved out for objective
6	091945	Clayton reports receiving lot of fire
7	091945	Nearing Klein Langheim. Lt La France seriously wounded by artillery fire on tank. Tank was covered by other tanks and withdrawn to vicinity of CO
8	092000	CO calling artillery for fire on town. Clayton reports that fire being received from opposite side of creek
9	092045	Parsons firing into town
10	092300	Clayton fires rocket into town at Wagon column where FC desired fire
11	092400	Unit holding line, tail of column moved into closed position with Company A w/Inf halftracks
1	100200	Garvey bringing up rocket launcher of Co A, hit mine which had been laid after column passed, also reported that the enemy had bazooka positions along entire road behind our advance and that he would not be able to come forward until daylight
2	100830	Clayton reports tank hit in gun shield, gunner wounded badly (same tank Lt LaFrance was hit in)
3	100900	One tank from Clayton hit; medics called, no info on circumstances

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
4	100915	Fire of some kind landing to right front of Sgt Burke's tank (Co D) who is on rear flank guard
5	101000	Same fire coming to assembly area, just light and harassing. Mortar platoon firing smoke to cover Clayton's withdrawal
6	101100	Situation unchanged. Field withdrawing to higher ground in order to develop situation
7	101105	Norton reports hospital in town Stadt Schworbach, 250 wounded patients and staff of 50 officers and nurses
8	101150	Capt Shipe ordered 50 rounds 81mm WP and 60 rounds 4.5 rocket
9	101315	Norton entering vicinity of town of Klein Langheim from north, vehicle seen moving in
10	101430	PW reports location of trains of opposing force, also states force numbers 300
11	101630	Seagull minor calls for Air to attack trains
12	101640	Task Force Norton moving out on new objective, town of Castel. Task Force Field is to block to the north and secure Norton's move
13	101700	Norton moved into Castel. CC-B and TF Field to move into Castel for night, refuel and resupply. Outposts posted and security established for night
1	110715	TF Norton moved out for objective. TF Field to remain in assembly area until Norton clears
2	111020	Unit in assembly area, two PWs brought in by Pvt Grabowski after running battle
3	111140	Point reports firing on four enemy on side of hill
4	111250	Jenks sighted two 20mm guns at railroad station in Schienfeld, requested fire on gun
5	111255	One tank sighted in Markt Bibert by Mac. Point received two rounds of AT. Foster reports lots of enemy in town. Clayton ordered up and Force trying to develop situation
6	111300	PW captured, says there are dug-in positions northeast of town and that there are two tanks deployed, also they have artillery support
7	111315	Mortar platoon firing
8	111315	Medics called for Co A. Dough boys hit, considerable fire being received
9	111330	Automatic weapons fire being received in town
10	111340	Six prisoners taken, information received that there are 250 dug in on other side of town. Air OP states he can see signs in Altenheusan designation a battalion Hq. Some AT fire being received. Enemy supposedly well armed with Panzer Faust. PW states that he was told that 50 tanks were moved through the town last night; he did not see them
11	111530	CO requests Air support in woods south of town. Warns Air Corps to not drop eggs on Markt Bibert as he is now ready to move doughs in
12	111545	Air Liaison Officer requests accurate coordinates and assures CO of immediate action
13	111700	Task Force Field moved into Markt Bibert. Security posted. Unit preparing to spend night
14	111800	Maj Comfort, Lt Cook with two light tanks captured one panther tank and crew intact
15	112400	No unusual activities noted
1	120630	CO holds company commanders meeting in preparation for move
2	120830	Norton Force moves into town following point through. CO reports significant zag trenches and dug-in positions outside town in pairs to southeast
3	120850	Clayton knocked out one tank at 0830. CO calls CC-B and confirms knocking out four tanks in past 24 hours. PW reports that there is one Panzer Regiment present in this area. Field offered captured Panther tank to Ordnance but Co D had destroyed it before he had the chance to get answer. Air OP reports that there is evidence of several tanks, some of them evidently Panthers
4	120940	PW states 59 tanks of large size went through Sugenheim for unknown destination; information passed on to higher Hq
5	121000	Unit advancing to Krautoschein. Order: move into assembly area at that point before jumping off to new objective



<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
6	121015	knocked out one Mark IV tank and took 5 prisoners after unit had passed through - near tank that Clayton had knocked out previously
7	121020	CO CC-B instructs Field to pull into Krautosheim and consolidate until Norton could be moved in to secure all around protection. Also to look over terrain to be negotiated on route to new objective
8	121020	One staff car knocked out by Clayton at edge of Krautosheim. Air OP reports one staff car, one light tank and two track vehicles at crossroads out of Krautosheim. Clayton is in center of town but has not seen any vehicles
9	121030	Co D reports knocking out AT gun
10	12-----	CC-R situation: 7799 – Red Infantry; 770023 Red Tanks
11	121035	Report that German General in area, name Von Bonn. CP apparently in K. Infantry ordered by Field to look town over well for staff officers
12	121115	Cook with D Co ordered on reconnaissance mission to Ingelstadt
13	121135	Cook reports artillery falling in Markt Nordheim, also tank apparently camouflaged at edge of town
14	121200	Cook reports horse drawn vehicles leaving town of Rottanheim, taking to hills
15	121205	Mac states that he can bring fire on column reported by Cook. Field says do so
16	121205	Clayton states he has knocked out one AT gun and observed a column leaving Berolsheim. Field requests Air OP to observe and call time fire on them. Clayton reports three more trucks knocked out and one Mark IV tank
17	121215	Cook reports he has knocked out one vehicle and sights friendly troops entering town of Ingolstadt, will swing around to get more krauts
18	121300	Air force attack town on request, Herboltsheim, to counter enemy evacuating from town
19	12-----	Cook took 25 PWs, killed five and wrecked one horse drawn column. One AT gun which was believed to be a tank before at Ingolstadt
20	121500	Unit point (Clayton) moved into Markt Nordheim, encountered no resistance. White flag hanging from church steeple
21	121525	Clayton reports that civilian stated that both bridges are mined, he is using prisoners to take down bridge
22	121530	Approximately 30 PWs taken in town
23	121600	Unit in town; CP set up
24	122400	No unusual activities
1	130800	Overlay received for small task forces to occupy town in vicinity
2	131000	Lt Cook with small task force occupied town of Humprectsus, reported that he had received no resistance, encountered mine in two blocks of town
3	131100	CO to CC-B. Company commanders meeting called
4	131230	CO gave orders for task forces formation and info for commanders to work on task forces were as follows: Task Force Clayton, one platoon tanks plus two tanks, one platoon infantry, objective Rudiebronn 95108; Task Force McLaughlin, Co A plus one platoon infantry, objective Hermecteau 9210; Task Force Trusley, one platoon tanks plus C/56, objective Mulesheim; Task Force Cook, Co D plus two tanks C Co plus one platoon of C/56, mission to hold Herboltsheim in reserve. Mission of all forces: reconnaissance in force if objectives are free of enemy, to occupy, if town is in force by enemy, get on high ground and hold what ground they have. Task Force Comfort: Battalion Hq plus Mortar Platoon and Assault guns to move to Krautosheim and set up CP. One Medic peep per force. Medic aid station at CP. Infantry broken down as follows: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Platoon – McLaughlin; 4 <sup>th</sup> Platoon – Clayton; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Platoon – Cook; 1 <sup>st</sup> Platoon – Cook

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
5	131315	Task Forces moved out for objectives
6	131415	Battalion Hq with Mortar and AG moved to Krautosheim. CP set up; no unusual activities
1	140830	Unit ordered to move to Uplstadt
2	141300	Task Forces relieved of missions and unit consolidated with Hq to move and secure bridgehead at Dietersheim; initial move to Hasenlohe
3	141415	Moved from assembly area Uhlstadt, order of march: A, one platoon infantry, AG, C/56, C/714, Hq and Hq, D
4	141515	Point has reached town of Dietersheim. Town is flying white flag, both bridges are intact and not mined. Point tank has crossed first bridge but second bridge not strong enough to cross tanks; bridge to be reinforced
5	141535	Jenks reports receiving direct fire on his position, round of HE landed about 10 yards from his tank
6	141600	Artillery fire received on center of column. Command half tract and trains moved back to defilade. Air OP trying to locate gun positions
7	141615	Field requests Engineers to bring up two spans of Treadway to bridge site as bridge had collapsed. Col Bromely with CO at bridge site
8	142000	Remainder of Force Field crossed bridge at Dietersheim. Orders from CC-B: establish bridgehead and post security for night. McLaughlin to hold high ground to northeast of town with C/56 and Clayton with B/56 to remain in southeast of town. CC-B to remain in Unter Nesselbach with Norton's force. CO to CC-B
9	142100	One peep hit two mines, Engineers to sweep in morning
10	142240	Mortar fire falling on force elements on outposts. Jenks observed mortar on side hill, fire adjusted with artillery and believed to have knocked out guns. No fire heard remainder of night
11	142300	Operations Instructions received for 15 April with overlay
1	150400	Co A reports heavy vehicle movement to direct front of Co C. Also reports tanks in vicinity (southeast)
2	150500	Two PWs walked through lines, interned by Co A
3	150530	Company commanders meeting, operations instructions given with order of march, overlay and instructions attached
4	150730	Considerable SA fire received from dense woods, one half track hit mine. Artillery scattered and harassing, roadblock believed before bridge
5	151015	PW states approx. 1000 men in vicinity of Beerbach and Rossbach. Field Force now entering Unter Rossbach. Light artillery and mortar reported at 071089
6	151040	Point moving into Ober Rossbach
7	151055	McL reports receiving mortar or light artillery
8	151100	McL reports knocking out one truck with ammo and food, one Ub Model Peep
9	151155	McL reports point destroying another truck at east side of woods
10	151300	Force Field ordered to move into assembly area at Hermusnauses. CO directs McL to hold high ground east of town, also CC directs reconnaissance to main highway and await Norton Force reaching objective
11	15-----	Polish soldier reports that three 105mm are in woods to rear of force. Cook with platoon of lights reconnoitered woods and found previous location of guns, at same time rear column was hit by sniper and SA fire. Cook is holding hot fire on woods while column clears. Co C Rocket Commander was hit, also Co A first sergeant
12	151500	Intense artillery fire being received in town of Herusnauses. Lt Cook evacuated with head wound received from sniper while covering rear of column into town

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
13	151600	Company and platoon commanders called to CP, intense artillery still coming in on southeast side of town
14	151805	Unit ordered to move to Mosbach, town has been supposedly cleared by 56 <sup>th</sup>
15	152000	CO CC-B decided force should stay in Schellart as Mosbach was not big enough
16	152100	Companies outposted for night, no unusual activity
17	152200	Movement order received
1	160800	Unit preparing for movement
2	161000	Unit point has sighted Markt Erlbach. Higher Hq states not to waste any time clearing M-E, to go through as quickly as possible
3	161025	Air OP reports that bridges at Adelsdorf out. Engineers survey to estimate repairs necessary
4	161220	Air burst and ground fire received on rear positions and tanks of Co A
5	161500	Patrol of Co D encountered mine field, one tank damaged
6	161555	Bridge complete and CO ordered Trusley to move out
7	161720	Clayton entered Birch Fernbach with orders to outpost for night. CO CC-B decided to make dash for next objective in order to secure bridge for tomorrow's objective
8	161800	Intense artillery fire being received between Eberndorf and Kircheimbach; vehicle observed. Calling for artillery support to try to locate guns
9	162000	Force ordered to spend night at present location. Clayton found gun in woods, large caliber, one airplane, number of horses and wagons still hitched up. McL saw what resembled a hangar and supply dump and now destroying them
10	162020	Clayton reports destroying two 170mm guns and number of crated bombs at airfield
11	162300	Some machine gun fire received by outposts, artillery fired into area on call
1	170545	Company commanders meeting and order for day's movement given. Unit jumped off 0700 with Co A as point 0745. McL reports locating tank in shed, also sighted two more tanks at great range
2	170800	Point moving to Gross Habersdorf, many Krauts observed in the town. Infantry ordered to move up into town with tanks
3	171000	Three tanks knocked out at intervals in vicinity of Gross Habersdorf, one locomotive, two boxcars, one staff car, three trucks destroyed
4	171230	Wilson has bridge in condition, column moving
5	171300	Minefield encountered, engineers moved the mines and column moved forward slowly. Lead tank of McL hit by Panzer Faust. FO trying to locate guns who are firing into bridge site, also laying time fire up around column, firing ceased but Air OP trying to locate. Dethloff observed four or five Krauts in apparent CP and fired on them; they dispersed but apparently were not hit
6	171315	Bridge gave way directly in front of Jenks but engineers reinforcing, can soon move remainder of Force over
7	171500	Force moving but running into considerable small arms fire and Panzer Faust
8	171600	No change in situation. Clayton moving on to Bonhoff, he can see into town but can't notice anything that might indicate enemy in town
9	171700	Unit still moving slowly, rear of column moving
10	171820	Clayton has high ground overlooking Heilbronn. Norton Force emerging from woods at 8825 approx 2,000 yards northwest (?) of Clayton's position, both forces are aware of each other's presence. CO informs CC-B of trouble in getting through, numerous mines have been laid and obstacles such as craters and blown bridge
11	172200	In assembly area, no unusual activities
1	180900	Unit in assembly area in Heilbronn, alerted to move at 1115

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
2	180930	Schoolhouse in Heilbronn yielded number of 20mm gun barrels, tank sights, periscope lenses, medical supplies and x-ray equipment
3	181240	Leading elements encountered mines vicinity 1286; Engineers platoon sweeping area
4	181300	Forward elements knocked out one towed 75mm AT gun
5	181320	Forward elements receiving direct AT fire and HE, one round of AP over Command halftrack
6	181400	Leading elements moving through woods toward Wustendorf. Progress slow as road by-pass limited to number of vehicles
7	181630	Unit jumps off for final drive into Ansbach
8	181700	Clayton reports knocking out three 88s at 082842. Enemy very thick in bunkers and foxholes
9	181730	Clayton reports he has destroyed three 88s, one 105 Howitzer; 200 PWs taken up to this time
10	181800	Combat patrol with Trusley moving into town are receiving a bit of time fire
11	181830	Col Bromley orders that we remain in present position until he has cleared suitable route into town
12	181900	Trusley reports roadblock is hastily constructed but he can remove it
13	182000	Unit moving into Ansbach. CP established for night. Entire division elements moving in
1	191000	Order received to move to Feuchtwangen, route of march on overlay
2	191600	Remainder of unit moving out. McLaughlin on point with one squad of Engineers, one platoon infantry; to move out to objective as flying task force. Order of march for rear elements:  Co C plus one platoon infantry Command Section (tanks) C/56 Assault Gun Platoon Engineers Co D
		Services to remain in Ansbach
3	191600	Rate of march very fast. Road conditions poor. Second bridge at Herridon fell through and was by-passed
4	192040	Bridge at Ober-Schonbronn fell through. AP fire being received vicinity Ober-Schonbronn. Unit turned back and by-passed to northeast over bridge at Boskaus. Co A on point, continuing on to Aichan. Apparent minefield being investigated by Co A
5	192100	Remainder of unit clearing bridge at Bockaus. Artillery (HE and smoke) laid at Ober-Schonbronn to screen unit as pass executed
6	192120	Lucky round from artillery hit ammo dump which exploded in vicinity Ober-Schonbronn
7	192140	Force closed into assembly area at Aichen, local security set up. Fourteen PWs taken during day's operation
8	192200	Company commanders meeting called with orders issued for next day's operation
1	200600	Force moving to support TFN in Feuchtwangen
2	200700	Force moving to high ground east of Feuchtwangen
3	200730	Clayton and McLaughlin in position overlooking the town; some activity being observed
4	200800	McLaughlin fired on enemy trying to infiltrate into town along road. No contact made at 0730 with CC-R who is supposed to move into and occupy town. Force ordered to fire only south of grid line 67
5	200920	Permission granted to move in and attack town as CC-R held up. TFN and TFF ordered to take town. CC-R ordered to observe no fire line. TFN to move into town, TFF to send force to protect south flank of town
6	201220	TFF entered town and established CP. Outposts of tanks plus infantry set up west of railroad

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
7	201600	Three rounds of AP received in vicinity of Co A tanks. No information of where rounds came from. Combat patrol of one platoon light tanks plus squad of infantry under Lt Turley encountered roadblock and cleared same. No resistance met. Total of 12 PWs taken during day's operations
1	210800	Unit in assembly area in Feuchtwangen. No unusual activities
2	212100	Received order for march and movement to vicinity of Zobingen (see OI and overlay)
3	212200	Order received to extend objective to Bopfingen. Unit alerted to move 220630
4	212300	No PWs taken during day's operations
1	220630	Force moved out for objective
2	221020	March uneventful. Rate of march very fast. Bopfingen reached and ordered to move on to the town of Ohmenheim
3	221100	Unit still moving. All trains still with unit to remain until situation develops
4	221600	Unit moving into Steinheim. CP established for night, security outposted, patrols instituted
5	222300	No unusual activities. Total of 129 PWs taken during day's operations
1	230730	Unit attached to CC-A and ordered to proceed at once to Dilligen and pass through bridgehead to Holzheim
2	231000	Clayton knocked out two 88s beyond bridge on route to Holzheim
3	231200	Unit closed in at Holzheim
4	231400	CP established, patrols instituted
5	231600	Clayton on patrol released 600 Allied PWs plus 20 American PWs (see overlay)
6	232300	No unusual enemy activities. Sixty-seven PWs taken during day's operations, 11 AT guns destroyed. Estimate of enemy killed: 101
1	240800	Unit in assembly area at Holzheim
2	241400	Unit ordered to move to Weisingen. Closed into Weisingen at 1500, CP established and order received to move to vicinity Aislingen thus to Gundemmingen on order
3	241500	Co D patrol out to vicinity Scheppach
4	242000	Unit moved to Gundemmingen. CP established for night. Patrol from Co D reports bridges at railroad and autobahn south of Burgeu intact but mined (see overlay of patrol). One plane, enemy, crashed with three bodies in it reported by patrol
5	242230	Patrols returned
6	242300	Total PWs taken during day's operations: 9
1	250400	Company commanders meeting. Orders issued for jump off
2	250630	TFF moving out for objective
3	250730	Point reports moving into Remshart, observed Krauts running around town; doughs dismounted to enter town
4	250900	McLaughlin reports point pushed through town Remshart, encountered large number of enemy in draw (see overlay). Several enemy surrendering, plan to push on through draw with Trusley's doughs cleaning up
5	251119	Approx 200 PWs taken. Nebelwarfer fire being received, believed to be coming from vicinity Gunzberg. Air mission requested on Gunzberg. Air OP report artillery fired on guns that were believed to be firing on rear elements and guaranteed that guns were knocked out
6	251200	Bridge on autobahn reported blown
7	251230	Six explosions observed vicinity Gunzberg, apparently bridges or dumps being blown. Air OP will try to observe
8	251310	CO informs CC-B that PWs and civilians state that town of Offingen is Hq of two battalions and that there are several hundred enemy there

<b>SER NO.</b>	<b>TIME DATED</b>	<b><u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u></b>
9	251330	Situation growing rather hot as situation develops further
10	251400	Infantry trying to work into Offingen, meeting stiff small arms fire and burp gun fire from woods to right
11	251600	Situation develops into house-to-house fighting. Infantry withdrawn to favorable positions
12	251610	Co D/56 <sup>th</sup> Infantry to move up from Limbach to help attack town
13	251730	Artillery working over woods before infantry moves in, also AG plus Mortar plus Co C Rocket tank laying intense barrage in with artillery
14	251730	Norton's force moved into Hortheussen
15	251830	Infantry of Co C and Co D/56 moving in coordination on objective, receiving intense SA and hand grenades
16	251900	CO D/56 reaches objective, calling for C/56 to move up to protect left flank
17	251930	Col Bromely extends his congratulations to D/56 for a job well done
18	252000	Force pulling back to Rottenbach for night and consolidation
19	252200	In assembly area, CP established, security posted, counter attack expected. PWs taken during day's operation: 441
20	252400	Unknown artillery coming in around town
1	260020	Federal (63 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry) is fighting against stiff opposition north part of G-town and in ESE Lei.
2	260200	Force in assembly area, Rottenbach, unknown artillery coming in
3	260300	Enemy plane flying over very low. SA fire heard from direction of Hortheussen
4	260700	Patrol instituted to direction Offingen
5	260700	Civilian reports Offingen clear of enemy. Patrol from D/56 sent to investigate, plus platoon B/714
6	260830	Patrol from C/56 with platoon of D/714 to be sent in direction of Reisenberg
7	260830	Two 81mm mortars destroyed, also a quantity of Panzerfausts
8	260900	One platoon infantry C/56 plus one platoon C/714 sent to Borgau to clean out enemy that had infiltrated. Artillery being laid in vicinity Borgau
9	260930	Counter-attack developing against 63 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry vicinity Leipheim, Gunzberg. Force alerted to move to Gunzberg to wipe out counter-attack
10	260956	Trusley's patrol to Reisenburg recalled
11	261003	Civilian reports SS troops approaching Offingen
12	261030	Offingen patrol reports seeing six SS troops from OP. Obs Plane going up to observe. A few troops seen in woods
13	261050	Belgiums and Poles report three batteries small artillery in Gunzberg. Also lot of AckAck 39 or 40 mm. At 0700 SS troops left Offingen to get 50 other SS troops
14	261110	Orders changed, to remain in present position and clear out Offingen. Plans to move Trusley northwest to railroad and pivot to right and work toward Blair who is going through town. McLaughlin in general support to northwest. Clayton to move through with Blair. Taylor to contact 63 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry at Gunzberg and maintain liaison with that unit
15	261130	Blair reports reaching railroad and could see Danube, only saw few enemy
16	261135	Blair reports has cleared town and is outposting along railroad, also has 15 or 20 PWs
17	2611142	Turley with patrol cleared roadblock and reports bridge leading to Gundemmingen has a crater just this side of bridge
18	261145	Boone on way to contact Blair with OI on coordinated attack. Blair to contact both Cook and Boone
19	261200	Boone contacted friendly forces on high ground north of our positions. 63 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry one battalion moving on Offingen. Boone made arrangements to coordinate movement of both forces. Objective of 63 <sup>rd</sup> was to secure high ground north of railroad. Another battalion is moving

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
		through woods toward Offingen. Boone contacted Blair and Cook and notified them of the situation.
20	261205	Friendly troops moving in from west. Hold position in Offingen until they arrive, then bring D back
21	261215	Officer from 63 <sup>rd</sup> reported into CP and informed CO of his mission and relative positions, also stated that his unit had thrown the artillery which had been received during night and had planned on laying down heavy barrage before moving into town which we now occupy
22	261200	Col Bromely at CP, gives new movements orders. Force to proceed to Gunzberg
23	261320	Clayton reports clearing Gunzberg
24	261330	CO CC-B directs main body halt just west of railroad and point to proceed cautiously to Leipheim
25	261330	Clayton reports his lead elements are in Leipheim. Reports that he has contacted friendly troops who have been counterattacked twice during the night and once this morning
26	261500	Unit halted in Gunzberg
27	261600	Unit turned around and returned on route as before through Rottenbach and thus to Burgau
28	261630	Capt Zabrowski, CC-B met resistance on west side of town as he was entering. Enemy had infiltrated patrols through during night, also large numbers were in woods south of main highway
29	261830	CP established in Burgau after artillery and tanks had succeeded in clearing enemy from town and woods
30	262200	Total PWs taken during day's operations: 31
1	270700	Order received from CC-B to be prepared to march at 1000 (see overlay and OI)
2	270900	Company commanders meeting held and OI and march order given to companies
3	271020	Order to move at 1030 received
4	271050	Column halted at tail to 63 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division column moving in the same direction
5	271130	Column moving very slowly. CC-B informs CO that bridge at Zietmanshausen is out and CC-B is repairing same, that is the possible hold-up
6	271140	Destination changed. Unit to proceed to Heltinfingen. CC calls Exec Officer McLaughlin, Clayton to command tank for instructions
7	271300	No resistance being met, trip uneventful
8	271730	Closed in Langeringen, CP established
9	272000	Patrol of three light tanks under Lt Pagnotti, plus one squad of infantry sent out to contact CC-A at Landsberg. Liaison effected with 253 Infantry CP at Schwebmunchen (at 2040)
10	272100	Negative reports from all outposts
11	272135	D Co reports no radio contact with patrol. Will call on first contact
12	272200	Negative reports from all outposts. No contact with patrol to CC-A
13	272300	Negative reports from all outposts. No contact with patrol to CC-A
14	272315	Cook says no contact with patrol to CC-A. CC-B LO called, says no bridgehead made. Will try to contact patrol to CC-A if communications available, says CC-A at Landsberg
15	272400	Negative reports from all outposts
1	280007	D Co patrol to CC-A returned, made contact
2	280020	D Co patrol leader reported at CP. Lt Pagnetti reports: 25 American PWs released at Bamardergen (2548), one German PW taken at Bamerdergen (2548), no enemy contacts enroute, friendly troops contacted at Suchloe (2342), 19 <sup>th</sup> Engineers (7 A), 90 <sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron (10 AD), CC-A 12 AD contacted at Sendsberg (3443). Patrol leader returned with CC-A OI for 28 April 45. Copy made of OI for TPF. Original sent to CC-B with patrol leader
3	280050	Trusley reports 3 PWs

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
4	280050	Patrol leader departed for CC-B with OI and four PWs, American PWs taken to C/56 for billets. Overlay and roster of American PWs sent to CC-A (? – illegible...)
5	280800	Unit on one hour alert
6	280915	Combat patrol sent out to reconnoiter the route to bridgeheads
7	281050	S-4 reports mail clerk ran into 9 kayoed US trucks at 0950 at southern edge Groscaitingen (259619). One HE believed to come from direction of woods northwest at 2063 fired at him. Information released to CC-B at 1050
8	281200	Patrols returned. See overlay and operations report
9	281145	25 PWs captured by B Co patrol, turned over to CC-B PW cage
10	281500	Unit alerted to move in compliance with OI issued at 1430
11	281700	No unusual activities, awaiting order for movement
12	281830	CO to CC-B for meeting
13	282100	Company commanders meeting. Unit will not move before morning
14	282200	43 PWs captured during operations of 27 and 28 April
1	290900	Alert to move
2	291100	Unit moving out for objective
3	291500	Moving at good rate of speed, no unusual events
4	291630	Moved out of assembly area for objective
5	291730	Route of march slightly changed (see overlay)
6	292000	One ME 109 shot down by Co D
7	292300	Force ordered to hold up in Weilheim for night
8	292400	CP established, force billeted for night at Weilheim. Twelve PWs taken during day's operations
1	300600	Force still in assembly area at Weilheim awaiting orders to move
2	300800	Force ordered to move on original route after Engineers clear
3	300830	Point moved out, nothing reported
4	300915	Rear of column cleared Weilheim
5	301015	Column halted on highway. Reported task force has encountered light resistance
6	301100	Reported 5,000 SS troops stationed at school in Bad Tolz
7	301200	Unit closed into town of Habach. CP established. No unusual activities
8	301600	CO to CC-B, returned with orders for movement by infiltration to town of Surnheim to await further operating instructions
9	301800	Unit closed into town of Sindelsdorf. CP set. Security posted
10	302100	CO returned from CC-B with operations instructions for one day. Company commanders meeting called and following instructions issued: CC-B to jump off and establish bridgehead at 728095, then move to and seize the town of Mochel. B/119 to put in Bailey Bridge. C/714 move to north of bridge site, approx. vicinity of the east sweep of river. C/56 in assembly position west of river to act as reserve of TFF. TFF to pass through bridgehead to Mochel with Mochel as objective. Order of crossing: A plus one infantry platoon, Command Section, C/56, AG, Mortar, C/714, B/714. Battalion C to remain in present position until order to move. Execute on order
11	302200	No unusual incidents, PWs taken during day's operation: 14
1	010500	C/714 preparing to move to blocking area
2	010800	Bailey Bridge swept away, unit ordered to remain in present position
3	011100	CO meeting. Task Force commanders issued verbal operating instructions
4	011120	Enemy information at present, nil
5	011300	Unit ordered to proceed on objective
6	011400	Co C in Benediktbuern. Command Section, Co A, C/56, TFN occupying Benediktbuern



<b>SER NO.</b>	<b>TIME DATED</b>	<b><u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u></b>
7	011600	Orders received to proceed to Bad Tolz, following TFN, objective Meisbach. CO states no possible movement by this unit tonight. CP established in Benediktbuern, CP guard set up, security posted. Possible counterattack by SS troops expected
8	012200	No unusual incidents. Fourteen PWs taken during day's operations
1	020800	No unusual activities during night. Unit in assembly area with outposts still on duty
2	021200	Six Yugoslavian partisans came into town with 50 PWs
3	021400	Unit informed that it will remain in present location indefinitely
4	021800	No unusual activities
5	022000	No unusual activities

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – OFFICERS ROSTER – APRIL 1945

### Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col Frederick P Field	Commanding Major to Lt Col
Major William R Comfort	Exec Officer
Major James M Boone	S-3
Capt Robert C Kelly	S-2
Capt Morris Schwartz	Communications Officer
Capt John K Shipe	S-4
Capt William R Harridge	Hospital to duty; no assigned duty
Capt Charles E Jenkins	Division GRO
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Joe C Carlson	S-1
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath	Liaison Officer

### Headquarters Company

Capt George Harding	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor	Reconnaissance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold A Sleeman	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	Mortar Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James R Jenks	Assault Gun Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Abe H Traktman	SSO – EFM – Bn Gas Officer

### Company A

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles J McLaughlin	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt	Tank Platoon Leader

### Company B

Capt Herbert E Magruder	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Goad	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Philpott	Tank Platoon Leader Hospital to duty
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt George A Branson	Tank Platoon Leader Trans from A Co

## OFFICERS ROSTER for APRIL 1945 (Continued)

### Company C

Capt Charles C Clayton	Commanding	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold S Landau	Maintenance Officer	to Hospital
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Richard P LaFrance	Tank Platoon Leader	to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt John N McDougal	Tank Platoon Leader	to Hospital
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps	Tank Platoon Leader	

### Company D

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt John G Cook	Commanding	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff	Maintenance Officer	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William W Turley	Tank Platoon Leader	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William J Venema	Tank Platoon Leader	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta	Tank Platoon Leader	Hospital to duty

### Service Company

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt	Commanding	
Capt John E Stuerwald	Battalion Motor Officer	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Casmir F Grochowski	Company Maintenance Officer	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer	
CWO Joseph T Collins	Personnel Officer	
WOJG George M Frost	Supply & Evacuation Staff Officer	
WOJG Charles D Frazier	Motor Transportation Officer	

### Medics

Capt Garfield S Barnet	Medical Officer – General Surgery	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Leonard D Wentworth	Medical Assistant – MAC	Trans to 82d

## 7124<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – CASUALTY REPORT – APRIL 1945

### KIA

Pfc John J Bachmann, 20119155  
Pfc Eugene (NMI) Grillo, Jr, 33228050

Tec 4 George P Gray, 38036383  
Cpl Charles Hake, Jr, 13094943

### MIA

Tec 4 John A Skeen, 39400350  
Sgt John (NMI) Fakett, 35586258  
Pfc Jose (NMI) Zamora, 39685208

Pfc Edwin Blessing, 38548888  
Pvt Michael J Penzino, 42142310

### WIA

S/Sgt James D Offerman, 35422874  
Pvt Lawrence R Driscoll, 31225975  
Pfc Claude B Crawford, 36316081  
Pfc James B Boone, 6666318  
Tec 5 Charles (NMI) Klein, 16148802  
Sgt Ralph B Brown, 6865321  
Tec 5 Wilford C Goodman, 38230196  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Richard LaFrance, 01817434  
Tec 5 Harold B., Bosey, 36118844  
Tec 4 Virgil B Achlers, 37457316  
Pvt Adolph G Louzek, 37747008  
Tec 4 Daniel J Kern, 36382381  
Pfc Adam (NMI) Beckedic, 6888717  
Tec 4 George Penrick, 35510029  
Pvt Ernest Crawford, 38284751  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Cam Billman, 38254383  
Cpl Douglas Berlin, 16133862  
Pfc Meyar Friedlander, 42035217  
Cpl Theodore (NMI) Mendo, 36559310  
S/Sgt William P Attison, 32365859  
Pfc Richard A Gilbert, 12198130  
Pvt George W Richards, 42074210  
Pfc Benjamin Heisberg, 32824630  
Pvt Ernest G Crawford, 38284751  
Tec 5 Frank W Langenbacher, 33678958  
Tec 4 Kenneth J Fisher, 39613779  
Tec 4 Leo Feldmen, 32529112  
Pfc Leonard King, 36647111

Cpl Mike (NMI) Begarac, 37692152  
Tec 5 Albert R Holman, 15335848  
Pfc Peter P Greenan, 32361077  
Sgt Ralph (NMI) Phillips, 13152687  
Pvt Richard S Beltreme, 36908325  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt John M McDougal, 02006418  
Tec 5 Edward F Kapalke, 33471224  
Tec 4 Michael (NMI) Benaczyk, 33243132  
Cpl Beilon (NMI) McIntire, 35092984  
Pvt Robert B Higgins, 33891314  
Cpl Richard A Berentson, 37444446  
Sgt Alton BN Clother, 12171342  
Tec 4 Charles B McDonald, 35104791  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Harold Landau, 01012435  
Pvt Joseph B Birmani, 33936844  
Pvt Stanley (NMI) Volchek, 42074187  
Pfc Arnold Bagdon, 32927590  
Tec 4 Patrick J Griffin, 32552669  
Pfc Walter P Lindemuth, 33243133  
Pfc Rex B Correll, 16152785  
Tec 5 Alfred W Gannon, 32576844  
Tec 5 John H Reade, 31176209  
Pfc Lester Stricoff, 12185911  
Pfc Meyer Friedlander, 42035317  
Pfc Frank J Hoffman, 36959334  
Sgt Orval Yates, 38293298  
T/Sgt Donald P Ferguson, 36043691  
WCJG Charles Kraizer, W 2127799

WIA (Continued)

Tec 4 Charles McDonald  
Tec 5 Irvin M Bailey, 35141154  
Pvt Henry B Szczeonial, 32833303  
Tec 5 Cecil Hall, 35678346  
Pfc Bruno Chmielewski, 36365425  
Sgt Elmer Foster, 36615043  
Sgt Edward Mayberry, 33536814  
Sgt Charles Reed, 33521096  
Cpl Nedwin Slutsky, 31210186

Pvt George McLennus, 34099924  
Pvt Ralph Armstrong Jr, 44050328  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Harry W Shillinger, 35022621  
Pfc Sarkin P Bayekien, 36878028  
Sgt Gerald B Holland, 33246415  
Sgt Harold N Oakes, Jr, 37443908  
Pvt Stanley Jones, 37597343  
Pvt Neal Jinkerson, 39135195

*(Note: The source document is hard to decipher ... many initials especially, and names, may not be accurately transcribed on this list...)*

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – NARRATIVE OF ACTIONS – MAY 1945

1 May 1945: At 0500 Co C, 714<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was preparing to move into a blocking area to permit Task Force Norton to cross the Lech River in the vicinity of Sindelsdorf. At 0800 the bailey bridge which was to carry Task Force Norton across the river was swept away and the unit was ordered to remain in its present location. A company commanders meeting was held at 1100. The Task Force Commander issued verbal operating instructions. No enemy information at this time. At 1300 the unit was ordered to proceed on to the objective. At 1400 Co C entered Benidictbuern, the unit followed and occupied the town. At 1600 orders to proceed to Bad Tolz, unit to follow Task Force Norton, the objective being Weisbach. The CO stated that the unit would not move till morning. The CP was set up and security posted. The unit was expecting a counterattack by SS troops. At 2200 no unusual activities had occurred. A total of 14 PWs were taken during the day's operations.

2 May 1945: At 0800 the unit was in the assembly area and the security was still outposted. No unusual activities during the night. At 1200 a group of six Yugoslovian partisans came into town with 50 PWs. At 1400 the unit was informed that it would stay in its present location indefinitely.

3 May 1945: The unit was in Benidictbuern performing usual duties. An order was received to prepare to move on 5 May on order. One light tank section was sent to CC-B for a combat patrol on 4 May. Usual battalion duties.

5 May 1945: The unit moved at 0630 to Laupheim. The march was uneventful. At 1800 the unit halted at Ulm due to bridges being out. The Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitered for new route. At 2000 a peep hit a land mine and two persons were injured. At 2200 the unit halted outside of Ulm for the night, unable to continue the march.

6 May 1945: At 0800 the unit moved out for Laupheim. At 1100 the unit closed into Laupheim and the CP was established. The unit S-3 checked the area for targets to be guarded. Usual duties for the remainder of the day.

7 May 1945: The unit was engaged in occupying targets and establishing patrols.

8 May 1945: The unit was carrying out duties as had been prescribed, with Co A manning outposts and Hq Co establishing and maintaining contact patrols.

9 May 1945: No change in duties.

10 May 1945: No change in duties.

11 May 1945: The unit received orders to move to the vicinity of Augsburg and effect the relief of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion.

12 May 1945: Company C moved to Augsburg and effected the relief of elements guarding targets in that area.

13 May 1945: At 0900 Hq, Sv, and Co A moved to Augsburg and closed in at 1300. Company D moved from Blauhuren and arrived in Augsburg at 1700. The CP was established and all outposts in town and in the vicinity were taken over. Company A was still in Aicbach.

14 May 1945: The unit S-3 made a check to estimate the number of men necessary to man all posts. All companies were utilized for the guard.

15 May 1945: The unit was performing usual duties and manning outposts as prescribed.

16 May 1945: The unit received orders to move to Wertingen. Battalion Hq moved at 1400.

17 May 1945: Company B, Company A, AG Platoon, Mortar Platoon, Sv Co and Company D not relieved by 23<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion. At 1600 Sv Company was relieved and moved out for Wertingen. At 2000 Hq Co was relieved from outposts and moved out for Wertingen.

Period 18 May 1945 to 31 May 1945: Unit in Wertingen, Germany. Security patrols initiated throughout month and strategic points and valuable equipment outposted. During this time no unusual events occurred other than several minor complaints by local townspeople as to looting by D.P.s. Numerous suspicious persons were picked up at roadblocks and were turned over to CIC officials.

/signed/

WILLIAM R COMFORT  
Major, Infantry  
Commanding

714<sup>TH</sup> TANK BATTALION – LISTING OF INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC – MAY 1945

<u>SER NO.</u>	<u>TIME DATED</u>	<u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC</u>
1	2 May	Unit in Benidictbuern, Germany with orders to remain at that point until further orders
1	3 May	Battalion in Benidictbuern, usual Battalion duties. Order received to be prepared to move on 5 May on order
1	4 May	Usual Battalion duties. One light tank section to CC-B for combat patrol 1
	5 May	Unit moved out 0630 for Laupheim
2	1800	Halted, vicinity Ulm, bridges on route reported out. Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitering new route
3	2000	Capt Shipe in peep reconnoitering route, hit land mine. Capt Shipe and Sgt Cooley evacuated
4	2200	Unit halted out of Ulm for night, unable to continue march
1	060800	Unit proceeding to Laupheim
2	061100	Unit closed in Laupheim. CP established. Battalion S-3 checking to find targets to be guarded. Routine duties established for rest of day
1	7 May	Battalion engaged in occupying targets and patrols established
1	8 May	Carrying out duties as prescribed. Co A manning outposts, Hq Co establishing and maintaining contact patrols
1	9 May	No change in duties
1	10 May	No change
1	11 May	Received orders to move vicinity Augsburg and effect relief of 23 Tank Bn
1	12 May	Co C moved to Augsburg and effected relief of elements guarding targets at that point
1	13 May	0900 Hq and Service and Co A moved to Augsburg. Closed in Augsburg 1300. Co D moved from Blaubuern, arrived at Augsburg approximately 1700
1	14 May	Battalion S-3 making check and estimate of all outposts, determining number of men to man posts. Companies all being utilized for guard
1	15 May	Usual battalion duties. Companies manning outposts as prescribed
1	16 May	Unit received orders to move to Wertingen; Battalion Hq moved at 1400
1	17 May	Co B, Co A, Assault Gun, Mortar, Service Co and Co D not relieved by 23 <sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion
2	171600	Serv Company relieved and moved out for Wertingen
3	171800	D Compay relieved and moved to Wertingen
4	172000	Hq Co relieved from outposts and moved to Wertingen
1	18-31 May	Unit in Wertingen, Germany. Security patrols initiated throughout month and strategic points and valuable equipment outposted. During this time no unusual events occurred other than several minor complaints by local townspeople as to looting by D.P.s. Numerous suspicious persons were picked up at roadblocks and were turned over to CIC officials.



## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – OFFICERS ROSTER – MAY 1945

### Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col Frederick P Field	Commanding
Major William R Comfort	Exec Officer
Major James M Boone	S-3
Capt Robert C Kelly	S-2
Capt Morris Schwartz	Communications Officer
Capt John K Shipe	S-4 to hospital
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Turley	S-1 Trans from D Co, 2d to 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath	Liaison Officer

### Headquarters Company

Capt George Harding	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor	Reconnaissance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold A Sleeman	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	Mortar Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James R Jenks	Assault Gun Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Abe H Traktman	SSO – EFM – Bn Gas Officer

### Company A

Capt Charles J McLaughlin	Commanding 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Captain
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt	Tank Platoon Leader

### Company B

Capt Herbert E Magruder	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Goad	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Philpott	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt George A Branson	Tank Platoon Leader

### Company C

Capt Charles C Clayton	Commanding
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Fred L Shelton	Tank Platoon Leader Battlefield Appointment
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas M Gaffney	Tank Platoon Leader Battlefield Appointment

## OFFICERS ROSTER for MAY 1945 (Continued)

### Company D

Capt John G Cook	Commanding	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Captain
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff	Maintenance Officer	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William J Venema	Tank Platoon Leader	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta	Tank Platoon Leader	

### Service Company

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt George H Hoyt	Commanding	
Capt John E Stuerwald	Battalion Motor Officer	
1st Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Casmir F Grochowski	Company Maintenance Officer	
CWO Joseph T Collins	Personnel Officer	
WOJG George M Frost	Supply & Evacuation Staff Officer	
WOJG Charles D Frazier	Motor Transportation Officer	

### Medics

Capt Garfield S Barnet	Medical Officer – General Surgery
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**714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – MAY 1945**

**CASUALTY REPORT**

**WIA**

Capt John K Shipe, 0394344  
Sgt Eugene C Cooley, 36275370

**AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

**OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR**

Capt Charles C Clayton, 0446021	GO 44, Sec VII 11 May 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Fred L Shelton, 02015017	GO 45, Sec XVII 12 May 45

**BRONZE STAR**

Sgt Ralph L Brown, 6865321	GO 42, Sec VIII 9 May 45
Tec 5 Maurice B Johns, 36430384	GO 42, Sec VIII 9 May 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas M Gaffney, 02015018	GO 42, Sec XI 9 May 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Christopher T Garvey, 01015743	GO 44, Sec XI 11 May 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons, 01019333	GO 44, Sec XII 11 May 45
Capt John G Cook, 01010872	GO 45, Sec XX 12 May 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor, 01016080	GO 45, Sec XX 12 May 45
Capt John K Shipe, 0394344	GO 45, Sec XXIV 12 May 45
Capt Morris Schwartz, 01013444	GO 49, Sec VI 31 May 45
Capt Garfield S Barnet, 0539729	GO 49, Sec X 31 May 45
Capt Robert C Kelly, 01012598	GO 49, Sec XII 31 May 45

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Sgt George S Conover, 32740246	GO 42, Sec XIV 9 May 45
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**714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – SUMMARY REPORT, AWARDS & DECORATIONS, OFFICERS ROSTER  
JUNE 1945**

**Summary Report**

From 1 to 13 June 1945 the unit, except for Company A, remained at WERTINGEN, Germany guarding targets, acting as security troops, and conducting training.

Company A was nearby at BUTTENWIESEN during this period.

At 1245B 13 June 1945, Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company left WERTINGEN and moved to a new area at LAUCHHEIM, Germany. The rest of the battalion also moved to various towns near LAUCHHEIM.

Service Company moved to HULEN.

Company C moved to REICHENBACH.

Company D moved to WALDHAUSEN.

Companies A and B moved to GUNDELFINGEN and performed the duties of auxiliary trucking companies moving PWs from GUNDELFINGEN to AALEN.

At 0710B 27 June Company C moved from REICHENBACH to EBNAT.

At 1700B 27 June the battalion held a Review and Parade at LAUCHHEIM at which time the Commanding General of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division presented the battalion with its colors.

At 1030B 30 June 1945 Major William R Comfort, 0450264 assumed command of the battalion vice Lt Col Frederick P Field, 0359720, transferred.

/ signed /

JACK C CHILDERS, Lt Col, Infantry, Commanding

**Awards and Decorations**

**SILVER STAR**

Tec 4 Ralph E Butts, 36430197

GO 62, Sec II, 27 Jun 45

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Harry W Shillinger, 35022621

GO 63, Sec V, 29 Jun 45

**OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR**

Pfc William F Bartelt, Jr, 16102136

GO 63, Sec VI, 29 Jun 45

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt William V Okoniewski, 02016378

GO 63, Sec VI, 29 Jun 45

## BRONZE STAR

S/Sgt Warren V Nelson, 35159952	GO 50, Sec VII, 1 Jun 45
Pvt Norman B Pedersen, 19211704	GO 50, Sec VIII, 1 Jun 45
T/Sgt Murray M Latimer, 36213307	GO 51, Sec I, 4 Jun 45
Pfc Darryl L Creveling, 33616704	GO 51, Sec III, 4 Jun 45
Tec 5 Ruben A Joachin, 37317257	GO 51, Sec V, 4 Jun 45
Pfc Meyer Friedlander, 42035217	GO 57, Sec V, 16 Jun 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas D Sefton, 02016384	GO 59, Sec IV, 22 Jun 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Hugh Robinson, 01168436	GO 62, Sec X, 27 Jun 45
Pfc Robert W Kessler, 32473621	GO 63, Sec VIII, 29 Jun 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Artold C Heath, 01013612	GO 63, Sec X, 29 Jun 45
Tec 4 James A Magruda, 39685127	GO 63, Sec X, 29 Jun 45
Capt John R Stuerwald, 01012879	GO 63, Sec X, 29 Jun 45
Tec 5 Elden F Heusing, 26382717	GO 63, Sec XI, 29 Jun 45
Capt Herbert E Magruder, 0450609	GO 63, Sec XI, 29 Jun 45
Sgt Proctor Rothell, 34595931	GO 63, Sec XI, 29 Jun 45
Pfc Don R Walker, 39261927	GO 63, Sec XIII, 29 Jun 45
Tec 4 Francis J Mrozek, 33396804	GO 63, Sec XIV, 29 Jun 45
S/Sgt Walter W Baeoke, 37194575	GO 63, Sec XV, 29 Jun 45
Sgt Alton E Clother, 12171342	GO 63, Sec XVI, 29 Jun 45
Sgt Elmer L Foster, 36615043	GO 63, Sec XVI, 29 Jun 45
Pfc Ray A Debelak, 17143338	GO 63, Sec XIII, 29 Jun 45
Pfc Robert B Adams, 15340046	GO 63, Sec XIX, 29 Jun 45
Pvt George P Karcher, 32563294	GO 63, Sec XVII, 29 Jun 45

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Tec 5 Vernon J Brett, 18046034	GO 50, Sec XII, 1 Jun 45
Tec 5 Angelo T Chiusano, 32523676	GO 51, Sec XX, 4 Jun 45
WOJG George B Froust, Jr, W2 135354	GO 57, Sec IX, 16 Jun 45
S/Sgt Robert C Mobney, 33393535	GO 63, Sec XXIII, 29 Jun 45
Tec 4 Michael Bohaczyk, 33243132	GO 63, Sec XXIV, 29 Jun 45
Cpl Dan B Jeffrey, 36429813	GO 63, Sec XXIV, 29 Jun 45
Tec 5 Lewis H White, 32267480	GO 63, Sec XXIV, 29 Jun 45
Tec 5 Leonard B Schoene, 37653842	GO 63, Sec XXV, 29 Jun 45
Tec 4 George W Wenrick, 5510029	GO 63, Sec XXV, 29 Jun 45
Tec 4 Claude F Allen, 39813714	GO 63, Sec XXVII, 29 Jun 45
Tec 5 Harold I Losey, 3618844	GO 63, Sec XXVII, 29 Jun 45

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – OFFICERS ROSTER – JUNE 1945

### Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col Frederick P Field	Commanding
Major William R Comfort	Exec Officer
Major James M Boone	S-3
Capt Robert C Kelly	S-2
Capt Morris Schwartz	Communications Officer
Capt John K Shipe	S-4
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Turley	S-1
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Arnold C Heath	Liaison Officer

### Headquarters Company

Capt George Harding	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Cleo C Taylor	Reconnaissance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold A Sleeman	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	Mortar Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James R Jenks	Assault Gun Platoon Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Abe H Traktman	SSO – EFM – Bn Gas Officer

### Company A

Capt Charles J McLaughlin	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Tank Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William F Attison	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William V Okoniewski	Tank Platoon Leader

### Company B

Capt Herbert E Magruder	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Goad	Maintenance Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ivin R Philpott	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt George A Branson	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Arthur Arnold	Tank Platoon Leader

## OFFICERS ROSTER for JUNE 1945 (Continued)

### Company C

Capt Charles C Clayton	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Hugh Robinson	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Fred L Shelton	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas M Gaffney	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt John N McDougal	Tank Platoon Leader

### Company D

Capt John G Cook	Commanding
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff	Maintenance Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Joe C Carlson	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William J Venema	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Frank R Pagnotta	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas D Sefton	Tank Platoon Leader

### Service Company

Capt George H Hoyt	Commanding	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt to Capt
Capt John E Stuerwald	Battalion Motor Officer	
1st Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Casmir F Grochowski	Company Maintenance Officer	
CWO Joseph T Collins	Personnel Officer	
WOJG George M Frost	Supply & Evacuation Staff Officer	
WOJG Charles D Frazier	Motor Transportation Officer	

### Medics

Capt Andrew Thomas	Medical Officer
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## **714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – SUMMARY, AWARDS & DECORATIONS, AND OFFICERS ROSTER – JULY 1945**

### **Summary Report**

On 2 July 1945 Major William R Comfort, 0-450264 was relieved of command of the battalion and assumed the principle duty of Executive Officer. Command of the battalion was assumed by Lt Col Jack C Childers, 0-282405. Major James M Boone, 0-1010726 was transferred on temporary duty to Headquarters 6<sup>th</sup> Corps.

From 3 July to 6 July 1945 men and officers of this battalion were transferred to the 771<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion and the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

From 6 to 10 July 1945 men and officers of this battalion were transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and to Infantry Division Reorganization, Det H, Reception Station 7035.

On 10 July 1945 Major Karl A Von Voigtlander, 0-289547 was transferred to this headquarters from the 771<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion and took over duties of Executive Officer.

On 11 July 1945 Major William R Comfort was transferred from this headquarters to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion.

From 11 July to 24 July 1945 the battalion was engaged in usual battalion duties.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1945 men and officers were transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division.

From 25 July to 31 July 1945 the battalion was engaged in usual battalion duties.

K. A. VON VOIGTLANDER, Major, Cavalry  
Commanding

### **Awards and Decorations**

#### **SILVER STAR**

Capt Charles J McLaughlin, 01013371	GO 67, Sec IV 6 Jul 45
Capt John G Cook, 01010872	GO 72, Sec I 18 Jul 45

#### **OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps, 02010536	GO 74, Sec IV 20 Jul 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Wilman E Goad, 01013750	GO 74, Sec V 20 Jul 45
Maj William R Comfort, 0450264	GO 81, Sec V 27 Jul 45



## BRONZE STAR

Pfc John J Lehmann, 20119155	GO 67, Sec VIII 6 Jul 45
Tec 4 Harry C Patchin, 33396712	GO 67, Sec XVIII 6 Jul 45
Sgt Joseph F Jaconetty, 36608982	GO 71, Sec VIII 15 Jul 45
Tec 4 Clarence F Fitzpatrick, 37311310	GO 72, Sec VIII 18 Jul 45
Sgt Norman E Helm, 33186998	GO 72, Sec IX 18 Jul 45
M/Sgt Robert R Johnson, 36313866	GO 72, Sec X 18 Jul 45
Cpl Dale E Goon, 35546448	GO 74, Sec IX 20 Jul 45
S/Sgt Sidney J H Pratt, 38079494	GO 74, Sec IX 20 Jul 45
Sgt Howard A Vance, 39192817	GO 74, Sec X 20 Jul 45
S/Sgt Dave P Arburn, 15323881	GO 80, Sec I 26 Jul 45
Sgt Gerald R Hellen, 33246415	GO 80, Sec I 26 Jul 45
Tec 5 Frank W Langenbachen, 33678950	GO 81, Sec X 27 Jul 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Louis I Dethloff, 01014623	GO 81, Sec XI 27 Jul 45
Pfc Eugene Wilson, 37408869	GO 81, Sec XI 27 Jul 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Vernon R Foster, 03943324	GO 81, Sec XIII 27 Jul 45
Tec 4 Jesse L Russell, 38319550	GO 81, Sec XIII 27 Jul 45

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Sgt Walter C Crane, Jr, 12063225	GO 69, Sec XXIV 10 Jul 45
Tec 5 William M Lawrence, 38134025	GO 69, Sec XXV 10 Jul 45
Pfc Ray E Aungst, 36534264	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Vernon L Beecham, 38275875	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc John W Beir, 33551259	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Henry N Biette, 32576763	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Paul Benschak, 33485524	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Charles W Brettell, 32528292	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Victor E Brodeur, 36534526	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Emiliano G Daniti, 32620282	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pvt Robert E Emerick, 36382450	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Ira M Goldstein, 12156641	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Robert H Hector, 35329750	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pvt Walter D Hutcherson, 38081173	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc James W Johnson, Jr, 38386005	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Melvin GH Johnson, 37315913	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc James Lewis, 33686802	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Martin R Loftin, 38029275	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Vernon R Mays, 34376196	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc John F McDermott, 32905830	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (Continued)**

Tec 5 Charles E McMullen, 33255968	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Martin C Reisch, 37616939	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Charles H Renning, 33409501	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc George J Smith, 32527021	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Joseph Seva, 35232145	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Pfc Thomas E Weese, 35586173	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Robert E Wilson, 37233575	GO 72, Sec XVIII 18 Jul 45
WOJG Charles D Frazier, W2127799	GO 72, Sec XX 18 Jul 45
WOJG George M Frost, W2135354	GO 72, Sec XX 18 Jul 45
Tec 5 Alfred Gannon, 32576844	GO 72, Sec XXI 18 Jul 45
M/Sgt Leonard J Racinewski, 32132707	GO 72, Sec XXII 18 Jul 45
T/Sgt Charles K Rushen, 33075133	GO 72, Sec XXIII 18 Jul 45
Tec 4 Frank J Vidmer	GO 72, Sec XIV 18 Jul 45
S/Sgt Kenneth H Flyr, 37462127	GO 74, Sec XX 20 Jul 45
T/Sgt Charles P Lichenauer, 32227832	GO 74, Sec XX 20 Jul 45
Tec 5 Jack M King, 39540180	GO 74, Sec XX 20 Jul 45
Pfc Arthur Marrelle, 39409876	GO 74, Sec XX 20 Jul 45
Cpl Douglas E Berlin, 16133862	GO 77, Sec IV 23 Jul 45
S/Sgt James D Ufferman, 35422874	GO 77, Sec VII 23 Jul 45
Pfc Frankie A Kidd, 35344331	GO 77, Sec XIII 23 Jul 45
Pfc Louis F Rae, 32863181	GO 77, Sec XIII 23 Jul 45
WOJG Charles D Frazier, W2127799	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Claude F Allen, 39613714	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Wilbert E Barts, 37316045	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 George M Bean, 39900485	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Pvt Frederick E Beck, Jr, 33341595	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Walter L Chejnacki, 36532971	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Oscar P Christensen, 36273955	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 John W Dalton, 7040376	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 Everett P Davis, 36380503	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 Alfred Dreher, 37336298	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Robert L Ecker, 33243121	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 Edward F Kapalka, 33471224	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Oliver W Ordahl, 373177877	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 John Papils, 32526962	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
S/Sgt Harold A Resner, 32282314	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Sgt Grady B Rowell, 34596206	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Earl W Reyer, 36069636	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (Continued)**

T/Sgt Charles K Rushen, 33075135	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 John R Schielke, 16153276	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 Donald Smith, 32659653	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Eugene W Thomas, 39900678	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Frank J Vidmar, 35517294	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 5 John E Simpson, 32751346	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
Tec 4 Kinzie Watkins, 36174730	GO 78, Sec IV 24 Jul 45
S/Sgt Durward B Jackson, Jr, 37050971	GO 80, Sec III 26 Jul 45
Tec 5 Billy L Lucas, 35666583	GO 80, Sec III 26 Jul 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt Frank A Scaglione, 32552711	GO 80, Sec IV 26 Jul 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Arthur Arnold, 02016377	GO 80, Sec V 26 Jul 45
Sgt George J Fedsora, 35588354	GO 80, Sec V 26 Jul 45
Sgt Morris H Horner, 37495689	GO 80, Sec V 26 Jul 45
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Harry N Kettler, 02006358	GO 80, Sec VI 26 Jul 45
Tec 4 Charles E McDonald, 33104791	GO 80, Sec VI 26 Jul 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold S Landau, 01012435	GO 80, Sec VII 26 Jul 45
1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt James A McGiness, 36169578	GO 80, Sec VII 26 Jul 45

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE**

Service Company	GO 72, Sec III 17 Jul 45
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**Officers Roster**

**Battalion Headquarters**

Lt Col Jack C Childers	Commanding
Major Karl A Von Voigtlander	Exec Officer
Major James M Boone * DS	S-3
Capt Robert C Kelly	S-2
Capt Morris Schwartz	Communications Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Royal S Kalis	S-4
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert M Kittle	S-1

### **Headquarters Company**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V Kresge	Commanding
Capt George Harding *	DS
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt James C Phelps	SSO

### **Company A**

Capt Orval O Saunders	Commanding
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Shelby Speights	Tank Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt William V Okoniewski	Tank Platoon Leader

### **Company B**

Capt Herbert E Magruder	Commanding
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt George A Branson	Tank Platoon Leader

### **Company C**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William R Keegan	Commanding
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### **Company D**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	Commanding
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Paul E Wilhelm	Tank Platoon Leader

### **Service Company**

1st Lt Christopher T Garvey	Transportation Platoon Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William H French	Battalion Motor Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Michael Borda	Supply and Transportation Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Lee B Horton Jr	Company Maintenance Officer

### **Medics**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt F L Turner	MAC
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## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – SUMMARY, AWARDS & DECORATIONS, OFFICERS ROSTER – AUGUST 1945

### Summary

During the period 1 to 31 August 1945, the battalion was occupied in redeploying troops. Security patrols and roadblocks were in operation as security measures.

On 12 Aug 1945, the battalion moved from LAUCHHEIM, Germany and vicinity and established a CP at NATTHEIM, Germany. Left LAUCHHEIM at 1030 and arrived in NATTHEIM at 1130, distance traveled, 29 miles. No unusual incidents occurred. A security patrol and roving roadblock were established in area of NATTHEIM for security measures.

On 24 Aug 1945 at 1645, a retreat ceremony was held in the town square of NATTHEIM in which the battalion soft ball team was awarded prizes for winning the division soft ball championship.

On 27 Aug 1945, Lt Col Jack C CHILDERS, 0282405, Commanding Officer, and Major Karl A. VON VOIGTLANDER, 02895471, Executive Officer, were transferred to Headquarters, Seventh Armored Division.

On 27 Aug 1945, Major James M BOONE, 0-1010726 assumed command of the battalion.

/ signed /

JAMES M BOONE, Major, Cavalry, Commanding

### Awards and Decorations

#### **SILVER STAR**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert V. Kresge, 01018190	GO 96, Sec I 7 Aug 1945
Sgt Matthew L Scully, 33341853	GO 96, Sec I 7 Aug 1945

#### **BRONZE STAR**

T/Sgt George D Dalley, 32528492	GO 96, Sec III 7 Aug 1945
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond H Schmidt, 01016006	GO 96, Sec V 7 Aug 1945
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William W Turley, 01012195	GO 101, Sec I 14 Aug 1945

#### **CROIX de GUERRE**

Lt Col William J Phelan, 016870	Ltr, Hq Seventh Army 14 Aug 1945
Capt Charles C Clayton, 0446021	Ltr, Hq Seventh Army 14 Aug 1945
2d Lt Harry H Kettler, 02006358	Ltr, Hq Seventh Army 14 Aug 1945
S/Sgt Adrian O Lindquist, 37314644	Ltr, Hq Seventh Army 14 Aug 1945

## Officers Roster

### **Battalion Headquarters**

Major James M Boone	Commanding
Major Russell Jones	Executive Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Robert M Kittle	S-1
Captain Edmund A McCadden, Jr	S-2
Captain George H Hoyt	S-3
Captain William W Hitchens	S-4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt George M Branson	Real Estate Officer & Assistant S-4
Captain Herbert E Magruder, Jr	Recruiting Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Othal T Parsons	SSO and Athletic Officer

### **Medical Detachment**

Captain Donald J Drolett	Battalion Surgeon
Captain Rene T Richardson	MC
Captain Serafino deMatthaeis, Jr	DC
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Ralph A Mertens	MAC

### **Personnel**

WOJG Irving D Jonas	Personnel Officer
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### **Headquarters Company**

Captain George B Felton	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Charles M Waldo	Executive Officer
1st Lt Walter Tarbutton	Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Normal H Rosenberg	Platoon Leader

### **Company A**

Captain Charles P Noll	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond B Landis	Executive Officer and Battalion Mess Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Floyd E Owens	Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Harold B Wood	Platoon Leader and I&E Officer

### **Company B**

Captain Marvin E Fawks, Jr	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Samuel W Worthington, Jr	Executive Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Bruce M Rutton	Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Robert W Corey	Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Phillip G McCormick	Platoon Leader

### **Company C**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Joseph S Creel	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Edward R Mayberry	Executive Officer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Ronald E Carpenter	Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Walter W Drew	Platoon Leader

### **Company D**

Captain Frederick C Brems	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt John A Smith, Jr	Executive Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt James W Taylor	Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Peter E O'Neill	Platoon Leader

### **Service Company**

Captain Wade F Baker	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Frank A DiGiacomo	Battalion Motor Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt William H Eskridge	V.D. Officer and Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Alvin A Therrien	Platoon Leader

## 714<sup>th</sup> TANK BATTALION – Summary Report – September and October 1945

During the period 1 to 30 September 1945, the battalion was occupied in redeploying troops. A security patrol and a riving road block were in operation as security measures.

On Thursday, 6 September 1945, a Battalion Review in conjunction with the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalions was held.

*/ signed /*

JAMES M BOONE, Major, Cavalry, Commanding

During the period 1 to 31 October inclusive the battalion was occupied redeploying troops. A training schedule was in effect for that period stressing the points of orientation and redeployment.

On Thursday, 4 October the advance party left the area of NATTHEIM for the assembly area in France. Due to a change in orders, they returned Friday, 5 October.

Security patrols and roadblocks were in continual operation throughout the month.

A Battalion Review was held at 1000 on Wednesday, 31 October in honor of Major General Burress and Brig General Holbrook.