

A TRANSCRIPT OF NOTES MADE IN 1944-45  
Clarence R Meltesen 1st Lt, Inf 0-431337

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D Day 23 Jan 44 (Anzio)

Cisterna 29-30 Jan 44

Rome (Hosp-Regina Maria Elena) 31 Jan-1 Feb

Civita Castellana (Hosp-Conv ?) 1 Feb-17 Feb 44

Hosp Train 17-19 Feb 44

Calvi, Mantova (Conval Hosp) 19 Feb-27 Feb

Stalag 337, Mantova 29 Feb-15 Mar 44

Burial detail 8 Mar 44 app.

Cemetary N.W. of Mantova

Pvt Charles D Kilbrook ASN.....

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

Lance Cpl - British - unid.....

Prison Train 15-17 Mar 44

Stalag VIIA, Moosburg 17 Mar-18 Apr 44

Prison Train 18-21 Apr 44

Oflag 64 Altburgund (Schubin) 21 Apr 44

Rome taken 4 Jun 44

D day 6 Jun 44 (Normandy)

Swiss prediction War end 3 months from Sept 13 ie Dec 13

Lv Oflag 64 Jan 21 1945 Marching

Arr Parchim Mar 6, 1945 Entrain

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Arr Hammelberg Mar 8 1945

Detrain - Arr Lager Oflag X111B 9 Mar 1945

Freed. 1900 27 Mar 45 - 0900 29 Mar 1945

Lv Hammelberg - train 1900 30 Mar 1945

Arr Nurnberg - Stammlager XIIIID 1430

Lv Stammlager 1830 3 Apr 45 train

Arr Moosberg 6 Apr

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Calendar note. 48 days, 567 km march

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Lv Altburgund - morning Jan 21 Sun app 0930 - Exin 16 km  
app 1500 quartered at large farm 2-3 km beyond in hay barn

Lv Farm Jan 22 Mon app 0830 - Wirnitz 16 km app 1400 -  
long break 1 hr - quartered at Echfeld.

German left at app 0400 23 Jan

Free until SSLatvians took over

Marched at 1530 to Charlottenburg

Milk, bread, sausage for sale

Lv Charlottenburg farm at 0930

Big business in Labensal, took over the town. Met Guard  
company at farm outside.

Lv Labensal (Luben) farm Jan 25 strict guard, barns were shot  
up, used a sled with Buchholz and Alloway in combine to  
Plattan. (3/4 1 bread, cheese, marge)

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Stayed at Plattan Fri Jan 26

Peeled spuds for soupss.

Lv Plattan Jan 27,  $\frac{1}{4}$  bread issue 1 day, soft snow, rough to Jastrow, British EM and Russian POW columns in square as we passed through.

Lv Jastrow - less 120 men by train, to Zippmann - 3 km of blizzard plain before town. Quartered in Catholic Church.

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Lv Zippmann Jan 29 - Church was crowded - soup burned. 1030

Tr app 6 km to Lager XIC ? at 1400 - portable barracks, warm, sauerkraut+potatoes

Jan 30 - worked on gear - Lv Oflag IID ? 1315 -blizzard weather into next town then forest trail to Machlin 2030 after wrong turning. Billeted by 50's in town - 1 loaf of bread in morning per man -

Jan 31 Lv Machlin 0900 - Templeburg - no sled - rough march. Saw Michele in Yugoslav group - delay in town quartered 3 km beyond before dark. Made our own soup - thick macaroni in morning

Feb 1 Lv farm - 2 groups to Heinrichsdorf - SS Reichfuhrer in town - quartered in large barn back of big home, wet wood, ate wheat+klim, diarrhea at night

Feb 2 loaf of bread  $\frac{1}{4}$  marge per man soup at noon, march at 1230 17 km to large farm W of Falkenburg quartered at night good sleep

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Feb 3 Stay at farm - Zülshagen - 3 chickens looted + SS almost started shooting Chatted w Col Lockett. Soup at 1400

Feb 4 Lv Farm - march to Cienow thru Dramburg - spring day- quartered in loft on hay pile by 1430. No fires, no looting.

Fires later,

Feb 5 0830 Cienow-Wangerin-Zietlitz - foggy - early soup - poor fire chance - good chow ie lots of spuds - cabbage soup for supper, oatmeal breakfast ersatz, carried potatoes on march, 1/6 loaf issued.

Feb 6 0900 Zietlitz-Regenswald ersatz at noon + carried spuds - long march to lager (kaserne)

Feb 7 Wed Regenswald-Lelbin ( $\frac{1}{2}$  loaf/4days) 76 km fr Stettin 52 km from Kolberg - muddy village after good march - no pota until morning.

Feb 8 Lelbin-Stuchow, good march on short rations, quarters way back in loft. Hit chow hard - Buch got schmierkase.

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Feb 9 Friday- Stuchow round-about 15 km - arr 3 km beyond Gr. Justin - ersatz for 4 mornings seems regular - quartered in light mist. Tex got some milk, no fires after dark, helped orderlies heated coffee, lousy sleep.

Feb 10 Sat - 13 km to Dievenow Air base. Sleep on floor of barracks, chow in mess hall. 1 loaf for 1 week starting Monday, hit seconds - cocoa - shave - to bed

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Feb 11 Sun - Chow at 0900 - seconds on oatmeal - secure equipment - police - move at 1200 - Move to Neuendorf - crowded barns - ersatz tea at night -  $\frac{1}{4}$ lb of marg +  $\frac{1}{32}$  bakshude.

Feb 12 Mon to Swinemunde Naval base - on gruel soup + 1 slice of bread - loft of building - 300 on excelsior - hot showers - cocoa - washed handkerchiefs - shave - bed at 2230.

Feb 13 Small chow, rounds back for gravy - move at 0930 held up. Lv at 1030 ferry from Ostwine-Swinemunde - march to Gorze in rain

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50 in small barn. made our own soup - ersatz.

Feb 14 Potatoes (10) March to Stolpe Bashed extra marg- intermittent rain - fed by 50's soup and potatoes Oberst asked cooperation if he gave us a rest day - bed early.

Feb 15 Rest day - tea potatoes @ 1000, shoes checked, boiled up pots @ 1200. Bags of pots @ pig barn. Good soup - 1st in line @ 1600 Talked party w John & Kirby - bed early.

Feb 16 Friday 1st in column, running temp. 24 km to farm short of Anklam. Germans called us swine. 3 pills. Tex got bread @ shoemaker. Knacbrot, cabbage soup.

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Feb 17 Sat last in column, issue of knakbrot + 1/6 of loaf.  
26 km to estate beyond Getzow @ dark. Lof, tired, parcels  
in morning, cold soup, bed after cup of coffee.

Feb 18 Sun parcel @ 0730. ate cereal, klim + cocoa, bread  
& cheese - talked w John. coffee - sleep 1200-1400 - soup -  
repack, shit, shave, coffee, bed.

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Feb 19 Mon up at 0800 - darned left wool sock heel, ate  
tuna sandwiches coffee, secure equipment, move at 1045 from  
Grafin to farm 1 km from Tussow. (no ersatz @ seven)

Surprisingly short march. Poor fire chance, very crowded -  
potatoes, cabbage soup and some meat. Ate Spam and pots.

Feb 20 Tues called at 0630 - tea - move at 0830 21 km to  
farm beyond Demmin. Rough march - found in Demmin we would  
draw parcels, 1 Canadian per me. GI's felt lousy. Oberst  
spoke about trains and parcels.

Feb 21 Wed up at 0830 - hot ersatz + klim then cocoa,  
traded for cheese, felt lousy all day - fried Prem at 1600  
+ coffee - 1/6 bread early to bed - up once.

Feb 22 Ersatz + cheese sandwiches call to move @ 0830 1/6  
loaf. Ersatz @ 2d break - good march w heavy load. March  
cut short @ Neukolin.

page 23. Feb 22 cont.

Moved down from loft. Bashed Pilchards - smoked lots of liquids - horrible shit on return from chow. Good sleep.

Feb 23 Fri Bread & klim + 2 pots coffee, no move order until 1000. No ersatz. D bar at noon, bought bread @ 2 Pkgs per load from guard. In at 1530 in cow barn fair set up. Bashed klim, pots, bully, 1/6 loaf issue, lots of coffee, rainy night, 4 days march predicted then 7 days train to Hammelburg.

Feb 24 Sat Lv Bessedam 22 km to Crammar (ersatz at noon) - country lanes muddy from rain - 1/3 loaf 2 days before march. Lots of room - bashed klim, pots, bully, bread, cheese - even shave in horse barn w John over coffee

Feb 25 Sun Lv Crammmar over moor to forests after ersatz sardines, bread no ersatz A 0930. Nap at noon Rough march. Split up - pots @ 1900 hot water finally bed when Jerry owner put on them

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Feb 26 Mon Rest at Plauer hagen dozed in morning, ate bread, shave, rest, hot water in evening. No more smoking in barns - shoot. Cleared off - full moon.

Feb 27 Tues March @ 1000 after usual breakfast, no ersatz. Hit refugees again - break 30 min ersatz - to Latheran - pots + butter & salt - sugar bread + spreads - hot water later. Covered manure w straw.

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Feb 28 Wed Sardines + crackers, ersatz.  $\frac{1}{2}$  #10,  $\frac{1}{2}$  loaf bread, 1/5 marg issue. roll gear wait for march order. Lv @ 1100 - noon off road in trees K<sub>2</sub> + jam very good, wandered over fields to move into Siggelskan by way of Neuberg. Bashed crackers and jam, brew of coffee, soup lousy, saved pots - brew and klim cracker bash before bed. Poor sleep - cough, draft.

Mar 1 Thurs - Rest jam breakfast, good sleep, fried potatoes. Rain in afternoon

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Fri Mar 2 Breakfast in bed after hard night. Appel @ 0900 and 1600 Bashed sardines.  $\frac{1}{4}$  parcel in afternoon, Windy. Coffee and milk before bed. Bull session on station wagons.

Sat Mar 3 Coffee, shave, appel, Fried Prem + pots. 2 day bread issue. Shoe repair. Boiled coffee. Nominal appel @ 1500 Trockengemuse soup, lousy. Klim + pots. Hot water + cigar talking w Huggett about Army. Sweated a poor bread deal.

Sun Mar 4 Coffee, appel @ 0900-1130 - 2 escapees result in Oberst sermon. Snow till noon. Brewed can coffee. Good potato soup - no seconds. Pots + M&V heated. Last of klim @ hot water. Long chat with John - up at night.



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Mon Mar 5 Coffee and wash. Appel @ 0900 Brid! Louse  
inspection - clean. Bread issue 1/6 etc ate salmon. Sunned.  
Sorted gear. Rumored move.

page 29. Mar 5 cont.

Read and sunned in afternoon. Lots of soup - warmed spuds  
+ Prem - shaved in cold water. Coffee - chatted w John -  
3 day bread issued +  $\frac{1}{4}$  of marg - won 1/8 on raffle.  
Outside during air raid.

Tues Mar 6 Up @ 0430 - ersatz, sandwich, chicken soup, roll  
gear. Move about 0600 after standing around. 2 km to  
Parchim. 15 min break march to Bahnhof. Ersatz tea in  
yard. Entrain by 1000 - car #3(4) Major Symes. 36 officers  
+ 4 guards. ... Wittenberg @ 1400

Wed Mar 7 Magdeburg @ 0700 Weimar 1630

Thurs Mar 8 Bad Kissingen 1200 lay over in afternoon.  
Move to Hammelberg @ 1900 sleep on cars.

Fri Mar 9 Detrain @ 0645 March @ 0900 up long hill.

Oberst

page 31. Mar 8 cont.

gave valedictory @ gate. Moved into tanbarked barn @ 1030  
Cold coffee w John - talked food.

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page 31. cont. THE ENTRIES FOR 27-29 MARCH 1945 RELATE TO  
THE LIBERATION BY PATTON'S (TF ABRAMS) AND SUBSEQUENT  
RECAPTURE

27 Mar 45 Tues: March order given at 1015 for 0530 Wed.  
Med insp. - I claimed bad shoes, put on list to stay.  
App 1500 active firing etc. started in area of Hammelberg  
and ridge to West of lager. Pea soup at noon.  $\frac{1}{2}$ bread, jam,  
sugar, marg. at 1500 - jam incl R.C. parcels. Soup at 1630  
made of 60 R.C. parcels plus potatoes. Ordered to stay in  
quarters at 1530. Told at 1645 that SAO had charge of camp.  
To keep discipline in barracks. Hot fire fight around  
haystacks about 1800 -followed by tank breakthru into lager.

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With much fuss we moved over hill, crowded Reccy cars to  
ride down hill. Ordered off vehicles after bashing a K ration.  
Picked up 3-4 K rations - found that the order by Col Zeller  
and Col Sweeting was to move by 4's W 30 miles to the lines.  
Lewandowski and Kent asked me to go. Moved generally W to  
app 0300 in center of woods. Slug of Rhine wine and sleep.  
Hid carbine during day.

28 Mar 45 Wed Slept until app 0900 - firing to S.W.  
continues. some mortar fire nearer. Hope to get in tonight.  
Moved out at dark - crossed over to next woods - one close  
call. Followed trails and cut

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over fields to canal. Back up hill and followed contour.  
Pooped at 0200. Holed up.

29 Mar Thurs: Slept until 0800. Picked up at 0930 by  
wandering patrol. Bashed K ration and into town to barn.  
Sifriedsburg 12 km from Hammelberg. March back to lager  
by 2100 - rough. 1 blanket issued. slept in riding hall.

#### END OF LIBERATION INCIDENT

30 Mar Fri: Eyes badly puffed - washed ersatz . Saw  
Buchholz and Granberry in lager. Sweet ersatz @ 1030 and  
march order. Hammelberg - good soup. 1/5 parcel, load  
and train. Move out at dark 45 men left in car of 50.  
Rough night.

31 Mar Sat: Bamberg at 0600 - usual wait in yards. Light  
breakfast. Off at 1200 - bashed parcel during day at halts -  
Erlangen @ 1500 - left for Nurnberg @ 1800 - Wine at Furth  
for guards. Sat up all night.

1 April 45 Parked @ Nurnberg NE yards. Brewed coffee.

March @ 1130. Nurnberg badly bombed

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20 minute halt in park by Partesfelg grounds - beautiful  
spring weather. On to Langnasser Luftlager. Appel -  
brewed Barrington Hall coffee @ 1930 -quartered - cold night.

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2 April 45. Wash - appel 0800 - Spam, potatoes, onions, biscuit, jam, cocoa, marg out of central mess - evening meal @ 1700. No appel. Got 2 blankets - slept better.

3 April 45 Tues: Appel - police - breakfast @ 1100. March order at 1500 - trying to stay or take train. Rushed meal and goodbyes after appel - drew parcel - marched to marshalling yard. Drew #10 - big riot to draw more - no luck. Bashed considerable. Poor sleep.

4 April 45 Wed: Up @ 0630 - Klim bash etc until sickened of eating. Tr. N and came back - route bombed out. Bull session with Fritz. Bed at dark - slept well.

5 April Thurs Slept until 1100. Witnessed a pass at our locomotive. Stopped until 1200. Rolled to Munich at 1630. Moosburg @ 1930.

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6 April Fri: Cooked with Gardiner porridge and eggs bacon. Appel. Moved into temporary lager SE corner about noon. Quartered. Cereal-cocoa klim bash. Appel. funny soup - good tea RC soup - had to save some plus 1/6 bread, cheese. So to bed.

7 April Sat: GI -sour stomach- Ran temperature -slept most of day, after heating soup and tea. 1/6 parcel bread, wurst.

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8 April Sun: Bad night - good breakfast - started On  
Being - soup @ 1500 - rumored delousing.

9 April Mon Good oatmeal then an excruciating delousing  
ceremony. Wound up in Bl 39 as per yr ago. Soup - make  
house - go to bed.

10 April Tues Up betimes. Damnably lack of cohesive  
organization. Sweeney and I started sweeping the barracks.  
Big laundry after 2nd breakfast.

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Liberation:

Moosberg 29 April 45 1230

Alerted 6 May 45 - 2100 deloused

IP 0615 - moved by truck to Straubing - overnight

K rations

Emplane 0920 - 9 May 45