

LOG OF THE MARCH ACROSS GERMANY
COMPILED BY HARRY BASTION R.A.A.F.
LEAVING GROS TYCHOW - 6/2/1945

1)	Feb 6th	Set off 12.00hrs. Tuesday - Bread 1/3 loaf Stayed Naffin	14 Kms
2)	Feb 7th	Stopped Zeitlow 19.00hrs	26 kms
3)	Feb 8th	Start 9.00 via Tapey, Posdied, Stolzenberg, (Stawoborze), Ramelow. Arrived Roman 17.00 hrs	28 kms
4)	Feb 9th	Rested all day (Friday)	
5)	Feb 10th	Start 7.30 (Saturday) via Broitz (Broice) - 1/4 loaf, arrived Pribbernow Prost 16.00 hrs	20 kms
6)	Feb 11th	Start 8.30 (Sunday) via Griefenberg (Gryfice) Arrived Kukahn 15.00 hrs	18 kms
7)	Feb 12th	Start 7.30 via Kummin, Ludwigsbau Arrived Gorke 18.00 hrs	22 kms
8)	Feb 13th	Rested at Gorke	
9)	Feb 14th	Started 11.00 hrs. Stayed Reckow (Rekowo)	4 kms
10)	Feb 15th	Set off 07.00 hrs via Dobberphul, Hagen, Wolin. Arrived Pritter 17.00 hrs. Slept in open - 1/5 RC parcel	38 kms
11)	Feb 16th	Set off 07.00 hrs via Swinemunde, Zirchow Arrived Gorke 16.00 hrs	25 kms
12)	Feb 17th	Started 08.00 hrs via Usedom, Pinnow Arrived Murchin 17.00 hrs	33 kms
13)	Feb 18th	Set out 12.00 hrs via Anklam Arrived Postlow 15.30 hrs	15 kms
14)	Feb 19th	Started 08.00 hrs via Breest, Borow. Arrived Seltz 16.00 hrs	28 kms
15)	Feb 20th	Rested	
16)	Feb 21st	Started 09.30 hrs via Gultz Arrived Schossow 13.30 hrs	8 kms
17)	Feb 22nd	Rest	
18)	Feb 23rd	Set out 09.00 hrs via Gnyow (Japsow), Wolde. Arrived Rosenow 13.30 hrs	10 kms
19)	Feb 24th	Resting Rosenow.	
20)	to	Nothing but spuds and had a mild touch of dysentry	
21)	Feb 27th	like most of the others but made me pretty weak.	
22)		Weather improving and rumours of Red X parcels in the vicinity. Got over my GI's but tummy very sore. Spirits very low. Appreciation of new culture very poor.	
23)	Feb 28th	One Red Cross parcel per man. We live again. Am really going to eat when I get back and then some. Have been warned that parcel may have to last at least a fortnight Bad show. Could eat it all right now.	

TOTAL RATION TO DATE (FEB 28TH)

1.1/5 Red X Parcels

7/12 Bread
6 Biscuits
1/5 Tin Meat
2oz lard
4 Cups Soup
2oz Marg.
12 Spuds
4 Spuds
7 Spuds
8 Spuds
5 Spuds
2 Cups Coffe
6 Spuds

2.1/5 loaf (22nd Feb)

From 22nd to 28th nothing but spuds from Germans. Feeling very weak and bags of dysentery present from eating raw veg. Utter disregard for sick cases by our hosts until one died of pneumonia. Followed by visit from Jerry Doc. Wish the boys in charge of Jerry POW's could see the way we are being treated by our hosts. May they get all they deserve and then some. Come on, Joe.

- 24) March 1st Still here and feeling a bit better for extra grub from parcel. Find it hard not to wolf the lot. Very cold and windy. Nearly out of the bread which Sam bought for cigs when we arrived.
- 25) March 2nd Still have no news of moving. Rumours have it our leading party started out and nearly keeled over after 4 kms, so they came back. Jack Lang our barrack leader back today and he has been on to the Jerries for soup etc., which the parties on the other farms have been getting. Very cold and windy.
- 26) March 3rd Saturday - Started day well with an issue of 1/5 loaf of bread. had a hot bath in the house here. Shook me rigid when I stripped. Just skin and bone. Makes me wish I could satisfy my voracious appetite. More spuds for lunch and I had two tins full. Soup to come later.. Rumour that we'll away again tomorrow. Everybody still pretty weak bur improved slightly. Wish I could eat my whole parcel right off.
- 27) March 4th Sunday - Up at 5.30. Cup of hot barley. Parade 6.30 - Moved off 7.30. Started to snow lightly and was continuous until 13.00 hrs when it turned to fine rain. Via Luplow and Kargow. Worst day yet. Everything wet. Left leg in bad shape from rheumatism I think. Arrived really on my knees 30 kms
- 28) March 5th Monday - Up at 6.00. Issue of 1/5 RC parcel, 1/5 loaf, a little marg and sausages. Decided to go with slow sick party as I was feeling off. Turned out to be a mistake as we were the fastest party on the road. Has 40 mins less rest than main party and one burst of 2 1/2 Hrs without rest. Fortunately it was a lovely sunny day and we march via Waren. Slept on balcony (Penkow) 26 kms

- 29) March 6th Tuesday - Up at 6.00. Spuds and brew. Parade 8.30 Off at 9.10. very overcast but sun came out at midday. Feeling a lot better. Heard a rumour that we've only 4 more days marching to reach our destination. Hope it's true. Route via Malchow, Alt Schwerin to Monchbush. Arrived 15.00 hrs 17 kms
- 30) March 7th Wednesday - Day of rest, poor facilities for cooking. Spuds and 2 cups very thin soup. Grub (RC) very low. 1/2 loaf for six days.
- 31) March 8th Up at 6.00, set out 7.15 via Karow, Gallin to Zahren. good road but very weak at finish. 1lb spuds 20 kms
- 32) March 9th Day of rest Rumours that we're within 100 kms of our destination. Also rumours that RC take over our feeding entirely from the Jerry. Sam's and my grub very low. Funny that our thoughts which used to be centred on a good time after the Krieg, now revolve entirely round food, good food in all it's many forms. Just laying in the hay with visions of steak and onions, pork, eggs, lamb and green peas, fruit salad, apple pie etc... and at times really drooling as the vision becomes too realistic. Jerry rations very poor, only 5 spuds today per man. Made a couple of swaps for bread.
- 33) March 10th Saturday/Sunday - Two more days of rest. 1 cup soup
March 11th these two days. I really went to town on our bread and ate more in two days than ever before in this life, but we're really hungry so what's the difference. Spent most of the days in bed as the weather here has a deadly penetrating dampness. Have rheumatism or summat in both shoulders. Left leg weak with some muscular trouble in groin. Just have to keep going and hope (and pray) it won't be too long now. Quite a crowd of sick now, a few bludgers but mostly genuine cases. Weakness, dysentery, blood poisoning main troubles.
- 34) March 12th Monday - Up at 7.00. Brew and on our way at 9.00 via Charlottenhof, Passow, Greven to Lancken at 13.30. Real cross country effort along sandy tracks. 13 kms
Feeling a little better. Had a fairly good set up. Small Barn and only 65 blokes. Spuds never tasted better (had 7)
Issued this morning with 1/2 loaf to last 6 days.
- 35) March 13th Tuesday - Moved about 300 yds to a big barn were A lager had been. Supposed to be just over 40 kms from destination.
- 36) March 14th Wednesday - Red X finished. Spuds for breakfast Parade 08.00, moved off 08.30. Took our time. had two 1/2hours rests and one 3/4 hrs rest. very heavy going due to weakness. Via Stralendorf and Neuhof to Moderitz Arrived 14.30. Everybody really buggered 11 kms

- 37) March 15th Stayed over. Everybody weak from too little food. But weather best of trip. Spent day lying in sunshine and thinking of home and food. Has 6 tiny spuds & a cup of watery soup for day's grub. Lucky enough to get some spuds and cabbage when the pigs had finished. Cooked' em in a tin and they tasted great. Saw 2 kites, ME262's.
- 38) March 16th Friday - Same as yesterday only no pig food and no sunshine. Spent most of day in bed. Woke cold and HUNGRY. I'll eat what I like whenever I feel like it when I get back. Rumour says we march Saturday & Sunday when we reach a destination from which transport is probable (?)
- 39) March 17th Saturday - Parade 8.30, set out 8.45 via Matzlow, Damm Spornitz to Dorf Dutschow. Dull drizzly deadly day. Everybody very weak. Arrived 12.30. Spuds and soup and 1/4 loaf bread. Only 24 kms to go they say. 13 kms
- 41) March 18th Sunday - parade 8.00, moved off 8.45 via Granzin, Mensfeld (Herzfeld) to Mollenbech. Arrived 12.50. better going but very weak. Many rumours of RC in vicinity but prompted largely by hunger I think. Hope I'm wrong. Stooped to whipping spuds at night.
- 42) March 19th Monday - Rested all day. A few spuds our only ration. Very hungry and weak. Barracks 5,6,7 arrived in afternoon. Much the same shape as us. But I came back in hope of selling watch. Had no luck as goons never came back.
- 43) March 20th Tuesday - Turfed out of 5,6,7 and back with our own crowd. Lost out on that deal. Moved off 9.10 Via Werle to Neese 9 kms
Spuds and thin sweet barley and 1/4 bread.
Rumours of RC tomorrow? A fine day marred by strong gusty winds, and being bugged about mainly by ourselves. 3 years today since I became engaged. Rumours that we march another 140 kms to Dixie Dean's camp. Sam and I rather slaughtered our bread but this being hungry is pretty grim.
- 44) March 21st Wednesday - Up at 7.00 roll call 8.00 off at 8.30 Via Kremming Wanzlitz Eldena to Bresegard and a long haul as Sam and I only had 1 slice for breakfast and none through the day. very easy pace and lots of halts. Arrived 5.30. Had best spud issue in size & quality since coming on the road. farmer doubled up for 30 bars of soap which is all we have left of our RX now. Rumours of getting some here but no go yet 21 kms

- 45) March 22nd Thursday - Up at 7.00, roll call 7.30 Off at 8.30
Lovely sunny day after clouds lifted Via Karenz,
Conow, Malliss, Heiddorf.
Crossed river Elbe just west of Domitz
Coming through Heiddorf has a most welcome surprise
in the issue of 1/2 parcel per man. Came like a bolt
from the blue and helped the old morale no end. Had
one drawback though, every second man had to carry
47lbs extra for nearly 2 kms and then walk back again.
I got swagged and was when I arrived. However,
the heavier pack and visions of smokes and brews after
none of either for so long carried everyone along.
Had a barn just for 9 barrack and managed to get extra
spuds again. Hope this weather keeps up.
Finally arrived at Warnitz at 16.45 24 kms
- 46) March 23rd Friday - day of rest, lovely sunshine. Bought the
best soup we've had en route for 20 bars soap,
30 fags & 1 tin coffee, also extra spuds again.
Jerry handed out 1/5 loaf per man for 1 day.
Sam & I had some good brews. Sam bought a slice of
bread & 5 onions off a schoolboy and the bread and
soaked prunes was the nicest brekker we've had en tour.
Sat around in sunshine and felt better than I have for
some time. Rumour now says we do 19 kms tomorrow and
in 4 days arrive at our final destination. May be this
one will be true. Last night nobody seemed to sleep.
Guess it was the general excitement of the day plus
strong coffee for the first time, in most cases, for
over a week.
- 47) March 24th Saturday - Had very little sleep last night due to
the most violent bellyache I have ever had (caused
by hot milk, I think). Now have severe dose of GI's.
Up at 6.00, parade 8.00, off 8.15
Via Damnatz, Dannenberg to Metzingen
Had another colossal surprise today in
where we received another 1/2 parcel each.
Beautiful day and we really sweated with all the
heavy clothes we're wearing. Very good road from
Dbg (216). Arrived 14.30. Billeated in small lots.
Best spud ration yet. GI's very bad. Hope to sleep
better tonight. Saw some diggers today 19 kms
- 48) March 25th Sunday - Up at 6.30. Fell in 7.30, marched 1/2 km
& waited for rest of lager till 9.00. Moved off
along highway (216) but after 2 kms turned off
into woods. About 11.45 saw the Yanks in action.
Looked good too. Arrived Klein Thondorf about
15.00 feeling very weak as tummy won't hold
anything. had to fall out quite a lot today.
Lost count of times. Bloody grim. Went to bed
on arrival (509) 16 kms

- 49) March 26th Monday - Up early 5.30. Final burst of GI's. Bread issue of 3/5 loaf to last 6 days. Spuds (stolen) for brekker. Didn't eat any but had some bread and cheese. Off at 6.45. Rumours of reaching a transit centre today. Mucked about a lot and march proper started 9.00
Via Almstorf, Bevensen, KL. Northdorf, Emplendorf Kirchweyhe to Westerweyhe. Split into small parties 80 in our barn and tomorrow is a day of rest. feeling a lot better due to sunshine and the tummy settling down. Had some spuds on arrival.
First for a while for me. 21 kms
- 50) March 27th Tuesday - Gave my watch (which Taff has repaired) to a Froggie to try and sell in the village. Hope he makes it. Spent most of the day darning socks. Jerries took an alphabetical list of everybody today and say we are moving on to a camp tomorrow or day after. Quite an elusive place this camp we're going to. Dixie Dean's camp (357) is supposed to be only 80 kms from here. No luck with watch yet. Soup was too much for nearly everybody (me too) due to woofing too many spuds while waiting. Another outburst of GI's, but my tummy normal apart from wind (& how).
- 51) March 28th Wednesday - Sold my watch to a couple of Jerry Kids for 9lbs bread and a knife. Sam bought some salt, eggs and onions. We were just waiting on our eggs to come back from the cookhouse to start a big whoof when the Jerries came in and said be ready to march in 10 minutes to transports. (Going to 357). Bags of panic and rushing about. Got our eggs back uncooked and decided to take'em with us, as it's only supposed to be a short trip? Marched off after quite a delay and reached Ebsdorf station at about 17.00. 10 kms
Herded into cattle trucks, 73 men in ours, others have 80. Some cock up somewhere and instead of moving off as anticipated we stayed in the siding overnight. Disgusting conditions. Blokes with acute diarrhea forced to ease their feelings in boxes and tins. Barely room to sit down, impossible to stretch legs, save by standing, no water and everybody in a naturally vile temper. Guess the folks at home will never realise how it is even when we try to tell them. No one slept all night and everybody highly cheesed off with being treated like animals.

- 52) March 29th Thursday - Managed to get out to commune with nature and everybody got one tin of water. Sam & I really woofing our bread as we got another 1/3 loaf per man and marg. in the train. At 11.10 we moved off and I'm writing this now sitting on my 12" sq for the 18th hour. Hope it's a quick trip. At 2.30 we arrived at Fallingbostal and were roused out pell mell and shades of Keifheide made the hairs on my neck stand up. Quite surprised when the Hauptmann insisted on a snail's pace to our destination - about 10 mins from station. Quite a large camp and all tribes and nations present. Billeted on a football pitch in tents after a search. Cooked our eggs and had half each on a piece for supper. Going to have one each for brekker. Slept like a log despite heavy raids as sirens here never seem to stop.
- March 30th Friday - Had our egg each for brekker and it really tasted good. First egg since coming to this country. Hope it's an omen. There are very optimistic rumours and gen here and they seem to have some basis Saw quite a lot of our boys going over today and the alert was constant all day. Issued 1/4 parcel but still no Jerry rations. Slept well again and was wakened by hell of a bang pretty close to here. Bags of sirens and rumbling going on just as if there were a war on or something.
- March 31st Saturday - Ambled up to see if I knew any of the boys from Lansdorf and met Peter Ewing with whom I started L.J.S. Shot the Sh.. & came back about 13.45 to find I was holding roll call up. Quite a roar from the boys. Had 1/2 tin soup and 4 very small spuds but it was quite a feast after our long spell off Jerry rations.
- April 7th Saturday - Have made no entries for a week as till yesterday we had hoped we were here to stay. However, it seems we're off again tomorrow and were supposed to go today. Have seen quite a lot of kites going over here in daylight. Just like OTU cross countries in formation with fighters muckin' about all over the sky. Lucky B's. Have had 3 x 1/4 RC issues since we have been here and Sam did some very good and profitable trading, getting fruit and biscuits and nutty which really tasted heavenly to our empty tums. The Jerry rations are very small and spuds have been cut to 3 per man since we've been here. Today we had 1/4 Canadian and the biscuits with thick butter, bully and cheese died a quick death. Boy, they were good. Had some roggan meal too. Something has loosened my belly up again. Hope it passes off quickly if we march.

Very heavy raids E & SSE of us today. Hundreds of kites went over with escort and no shooting. Bladder very weak lately due to dampness in tent, I think. One night raid over here sounded like an overhead railway bridge and caused quite a flutter. Quite a few bangs and thuds last night. Am feeling quite a bit better than when we arrived but don't look forward to marching again by any means. No rumours as to destination or distance but in our present weak condition none of us will go far. Jack Lang is confined to bed and Percy Carruthers has taken control of the column. He's a good type. Today first fine day for a week. Met a digger, Herb Fohmsbee, from Sydney, he was one of the blokes I saw outside Dannenberg. One Aussie bombardier down 10 days arrived a few days ago. C & A Lager moved out yesterday on the road and had to stand in soaking rain for hours before they started. 357 moved off today so there'll be bags of boys on the road.

April 8th

Sunday - Roused out before 6.00 by Jerries and paraded for issues of grub before leaving. 1/2 loaf per man with dried peas, dehydrated cabbage, coffee roggan meal flour, 450grms margarine, good sugar issue (for one week). Moved out of camp at 11.20 escorted by Army goons.

I spoke to one and he asked me if I spoke French so I put Sam on to him. He was from Alsace and drafted into the Jerrie army 3 years ago and was in cold sweat as to his fate if caught by the boys. He was wearing full French blue under his greys and assured us the column would never get out as we're nearly surrounded.

Weather cleared up nicely and we marched to Bleckmar arriving at 16.00. Goons very lax and we lit fires on the village green and had a glop of peas, spuds and onions for supper. Quite a treat to muck about cooking. The goons are rumoured to be afraid of a quick finish to the war and want to keep in our good books. Alsace brought us 2 eggs tonight

14 kms

April 9th

Monday - Stayed over and spent all day cooking. Tried some porridge with roggan meal - not bad. Felt pretty full at night and have eaten nearly all our bread. had further issue of flour (7 tins), saccarine, tea, meat (9 men to 1 tin) and raw spuds. Onions & Salt from Alsace.

April 10th

Tuesday - Moved off 8.30 and due to a wrong turning had quite a long march. Arrived pretty late and Sam got the while I got a fire going as we needed to make some biscuits as we were out of bread. Just started to cook when Tempests came over to strafe a nearby drome. Shells fell among the trees where we were and a 190 blew up at about 1000 and the pilot got out pretty smartly. Quite a show while it lasted. When to bed very tired. Bread improurable. A. brought us a small piece.

25 kms

- April 11th Wednesday - Stayed over again. Quite a loud Bang during the night, as someone pranged the drome. Cooked biscuits madly and woofed' em straight away. Lovely weather Issue carrots, rye, barley and meat 1/4 tin.
- April 12th Thursday - Left at 8.00 via Rigen & Winden to Wettenbostel. Approaching Winden we saw over 600 US heavies heading home from Berlin, with quite a lot of fighters mucking about all over the place. Some came down to strafe and we stayed in Widen for a while. On the road the other side of the town a couple came down to strafe and weary Kriegies whose feet had been leaden sought cover like champion sprinters but they were not after us, thank Heaven. Hard days march. Quite hot. 24 Kms
- April 13th Left fairly late (14.00) Via Raubkamm to Betzendorf Arrived late and had to sleep on ground under a roof without walls. Sam & I very cheesed as we are to cross the Elbe again soon and we're really lower in spirits than ever before. Have often talked lately of beating it but reached no decision 10 kms
- April 14th Saturday- Left at 13.30 and marched to Barnstedt, billeted in small lots and arrived early. Getting very low on grub and spirits lower still. No energy and marching is a heartbreak. Fine weather. 9 kms
- April 15th Sunday - Received very small ration of flour and peas. 1/3 tin meat per man (Bread Nix). Marched off at 14.40 to Volkstorf via Bienenbuttel. Long hard march and ended very late with a shambles as we were all billeted in one barn. What a crush. Had a brew and cold spuds for supper. 18 kms
- April 16th Monday - Left at 13.30 and Sam & I were really low as we're due to cross the Elbe tomorrow. Our grub was next to nil. We had 2 tins of wheat and some rye we whipped from barns lately. At about 16.00 they called a half hour break and we ate all but two of our biscuits and finished our cooked spuds. Saw several of the boys slipping into the bush and when "Vertig Machen" was called Sam & I put on our packs and walked the wrong way. Just off the road we ran into Vic Hanks and decided to go together. Waited a while and about 20.00 hrs started walking SxW. Only made about 4 to 5 Kms and bedded down.
- April 17th Tuesday - Up at about 8.00 and walked only 1/2 km as our wood faded out into open country near a small village. Holed up, lit a fire and cooked a few raw spuds and roasted some rye and wheat. No water available, but not bothered yet.

In arvo quite a bit of bombing and strafing close to us and we took it to be the prelude to a push our way and decided to stay over another day in the same spot. Pretty hungry and thirsty but decided to ration what little grub we had and hope to pick up some water on our travels. Has a thunderstorm in the arly night and rigged a blanket as a tent. Kept pretty dry and slept quite well.

April 18th

Wednesday - Slept on & off all day. Things disappointingly quiet. Nearly out of spuds and managed to get enough water out of our tins to wet our mouths. Old Sam looked quite funny scraping the leaves with a spoon to get extra. About 18.00 we had a fright when 3 Jerries in uniform walked within 5 yds of our spot and did not see us. There were overcoats and a blanket hanging up to dry and how they missed us was a miracle. We packed and moved to another spot till dark and then moved on. Took about an hour to get 100 yds, but there was a fair moon & we could see fairly well. Saw a Verey light and some light flak and A?G fire pretty close and put it down to Jerries practising. Came across a spud clamp around 22.00, swiped some and then holed up again. Still no water.

April 19th

Thursday - Woke up to see Sam questioning a bloke and asking him if he were German. He was a Pole and went away, coming back with his brother, sister and a Russian. The sister shot a horrible line about tanks being close and the Jerries having left the village. The Russkie and Pole gave us about 4 kilos of bacon and 2 x 3 kilo tins of mutton and promised to bring us water at 13.30. They went away and we'd just finished our woof when the Pole came back and told us -----.

Looking beyond the fringe of the wood we saw a patrol of 3/4 armoured cars coming towards us along the road. Ran out to meet them. British Army Officer (15th Scottish Division, I believe) in front one pleased to see us. Asked if we'd seen any Jerries about and offered cigarettes. We preferred a drink of water. Gunner said he'd had his gun trained on us as soon as we left the wood. Had a ride on last armoured car back to medical unit on centre line of attack at Melbeck.