

HEADQUARTERS
453d AAA Auto Wpns Bn
APO 230, U. S. Army

1 January 1945

SUBJECT: History of the 453d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons
Battalion for the year of 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

1. The history of this Organization is as follows;

a. Original Unit.

- (1) Designation; 453d Coast Artillery Battalion Separate (AW)(AA)
- (2) Date of Organization; 1 August 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization; Fort Bliss, Texas.
- (4) Authority for Organization; General Orders Number 30, Headquarters Antiaircraft Command, Richmond, Virginia, dated 12 July 1942.
- (5) Sources from which personnel were obtained;

(a) Transfer from other units;

1 Battery K, 509th CA (AA); 28.

2 Battery I, 509th CA (AA); 62.

Authority; Special Orders Number 159, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Fort Bliss, Texas, dated 25 July 1942.

(b) Voluntary enlistment; 12.

Authority; Special Orders Number 252, Headquarters 1524 Service Unit, Reception Center, Fort Hayes, Ohio, dated 6 October 1942; and Special Orders No. 281, Headquarters Reception Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky, dated 8 October 1942.

(c) Draft; 559.

Authority; Special Orders Number 252, Headquarters 1524 Service Unit, Reception Center, Fort Hayes, Ohio, dated 6 October 1942; Special Orders Number 257, Headquarters Reception Center, Camp Perry, Ohio, dated 7 October 1942; Special Orders Number 245, Headquarters Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, dated 6 October 1942; and Special Orders Number 281, Headquarters Reception Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky, dated 8 October 1942.

b. Changes in Organization,

(1) Changes in designation of Unit;

(a) 453d Coast Artillery Battalion Separate (AW)(AA).

Authority; Letter, Headquarters Army Ground Forces, Army War College, Washington, D. C., File 320.2 (AA)(R)-GNGCT, Subject; Reorganization of Antiaircraft Units from Semi-Mobile to Mobile, dated 29 September 1944.

(b) 453d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion,

Mobile.

Authority; General Orders Number 53, Headquarters Armored Force, Fort Knox, Kentucky, dated 27 May 1943.

- (2) Transfer of Unit from one organization to another as a unit;
- (a) 2nd Antiaircraft (AW) Group, Fort Bliss, Texas, 8 September 1942. Authority: Special Orders Number 211, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Fort Bliss, Texas, dated 25 September 1942.
 - (b) 114th Coast Artillery Group (AA), Fort Bliss, Texas, January 1943.
 - (c) 1st Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Special Troops, Armored Force, Fort Knox, Kentucky, 17 February 1943. Authority: Special Orders Number 40, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Fort Bliss, Texas, dated 16 February 1943.
 - (d) Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Stewart, Georgia, 18 June 1943.
 - (e) Maneuver Director Headquarters, Second United States Army, Lebanon, Tennessee, 30 August 1943. Authority: Special Orders Number 236, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Stewart, Georgia, dated 24 August 1943.
 - (f) 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Tennessee Maneuver Area, Lebanon, Tennessee, 30 August 1943. Authority: Verbal Orders.
 - (g) 52nd Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, Tennessee Maneuver Area, Lebanon, Tennessee, 1 October 1943. Authority: Verbal Orders.
 - (h) 118th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Tennessee Maneuver Area, Lebanon, Tennessee, 8 October 1943. Authority: Verbal Orders.
 - (i) 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Tennessee Maneuver Area, Lebanon, Tennessee, 15 October 1943. Authority: Verbal Orders.
 - (j) Maneuver Director Headquarters, Second United States Army, Lebanon, Tennessee, 5 November 1943.
 - (k) Headquarters Antiaircraft Command, Richmond, Virginia. Authority: Special Orders Number 193, Maneuver Director Headquarters, Second United States Army, dated 29 October 1943; and Letter, Headquarters Second United States Army, File AG 370.5-16 (GNLBF), Subject: Instructions Governing Domestic Troop Movements, dated 22 September 1943.
 - (l) 30th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Camp Davis, North Carolina, 8 November 1943. Authority: General Orders Number 61, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 8 November 1943.
 - (m) 124th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Camp Davis, North Carolina, 8 November 1943. Authority: General Orders Number 61, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 8 November 1943.
 - (n) 43rd Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Camp Davis, North Carolina, 28 December 1943. Authority: General Orders Number 71, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 24 December 1943.
 - (o) 61st Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, Camp Davis, North Carolina, 8 January 1944. Authority: General Orders Number 1, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 6 January 1944.
 - (p) Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, 25 January 1944. Authority: General Orders Number 1, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 24 January 1944.

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(q) New York Port of Embarkation, Camp Shanks, New York, 4 February 1944. Authority; Special Orders Number 27, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 1 February 1944.

(r) Ship Number 107, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, 9 February 1944. Authority; Special Orders Number 38, Army Service Forces, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, dated 8 February 1944.

(s) Ship Number 107, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, 10 February 1944. Authority; Special Orders Number 39, Army Service Forces, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, dated 9 February 1944.

(t) 213th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, APO 164, U. S. Army, 24 February 1944. Authority; Letter, Headquarters Western Base Section, Services of Supply, European Theater of Operations, U. S. Army, File No. AG 322, Subject; Letter Orders No. 3-708, dated 25 March 1944.

(u) First United States Army, APO 230, U. S. Army, 3 April 1944. Authority; Letter, European Theater of Operations, U. S. Army, File No. AG 322 OPGc, Subject; Troop Assignment (No. 44), dated 3 April 1944.

(v) Headquarters VII Corps, APO 307, U. S. Army, 3 April 1944.

(w) 109th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, APO 307, U. S. Army, 3 April 1944.

(x) 83d Infantry Division, APO 83, U. S. Army, 7 July 1944 to 31 December 1944. Auth; Letter, Headquarters VII Corps, File No. 370.5, Subject; Troop Assignment No. 1, dated 7 July 1944.

(y) Headquarters VIII Corps, APO 308, U. S. Army, 15 July 1944. Authority; Troop Assignment No. 51, First United States Army, dated 18 July 1944.

(z) Third United States Army, APO 403, U. S. Army, 1 August 1944. Authority; Letter, First United States Army, File 322 (c), Subject; Troop Assignment No. 91, dated 1 August 1944.

(aa) Headquarters XV Corps, U. S. Army, 1 August 1944. Authority; Troop Assignment No. A-13, Third United States Army, dated 1 August 1944.

(bb) Headquarters VIII Corps, APO 308, U. S. Army, 4 August 1944. Authority; Troop Assignment No. A-14, Third United States Army, dated 4 August 1944.

(cc) Ninth United States Army, APO 339, U. S. Army, 5 September, 1944. Authority; Letter, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, APO 655, U. S. Army, File No. 322 (AG-O), Subject; Troop Assignment No. 42, dated 5 September 1944.

(dd) Third United States Army, APO 403, U. S. Army, 21 September 1944. Authority; Letter, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, File No. 322 (AG-O), Subject; Troop Assignment No. 56, dated 21 September 1944.

(ee) Headquarters XI Corps, APO 340, U. S. Army, 21 September 1944. Authority; Letter, Third United States Army, File No. AG 322-GNECC, Subject; Troop Assignments No. A-45, dated 21 September 1944.

(ff) Ninth United States Army, APO 339, U. S. Army, 11 October 1944. Authority; Letter, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, File No. 322 (AG-O), Subject; Troop Assignment No. 77, dated 10 October 1944, and Letter, Ninth United States Army, File AG 370.5 GNECC, Subject; Troop Assignment No. 48, dated 24 October 1944.

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- (gg) Headquarters VIII Corps, APO 308, U. S. Army, 7 December 1944. Authority; Letter, Headquarters VIII Corps, File No. AG 322 (G-3), Subject; Troop Assignment Order No. 53, dated 12 December 1944.
- (hh) First United States Army, APO 230, U. S. Army, 8 December 1944.
- (ii) Ninth United States Army, APO 339, U. S. Army, 22 December 1944. Authority; Letter, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, File No. 322 (AG-O), Subject; Troop Assignment No. 133, dated 24 December 1944.
- (jj) Headquarters XIX Corps, APO 270, U. S. Army, 22 December 1944.
- (kk) First United States Army, APO 230, U. S. Army, 26 December 1944. Authority; Troop Assignment No. 154, First United States Army, dated 30 December 1944.
- (ll) Headquarters VII Corps, APO 307, U. S. Army, 26 December 1944. Authority; Troop Assignment No. 154, First United States Army, dated 30 December 1944; and Troop Assignment No. 55 (Administrative), Headquarters VII Corps, dated 31 December 1944.
- (2) Changes due to changes in Tables of Organization;
- (a) Table of Organization No. 4-185, dated 1 April 1942, from Semi-Mobile to Mobile. Authority; Letter, Headquarters Army Ground Force, Army War College, Washington, D. C., File No. 320.2 (AA)(R)-GNGCT (9-16-42), Subject; Reorganization of Antiaircraft Units from Semi-Mobile to Mobile, dated 29 September 1942.
- (b) Table of Organization No. 44-25. Authority; General Orders No. 53, Headquarters Armored Force, Fort Knox, Kentucky, dated 27 May 1943.
- (c) Tables of Organization and Equipment Nos. 44-25, 44-26, and 44-27, dated 30 September 1943.
- (d) Change No. 1 to Table of Organization No. 44-25, dated 25 November 1943.
- (e) Change No. 1 to Table of Organization No. 44-26, dated 29 October 1943.
- (f) Change No. 1 to Table of Organization No. 44-27, dated 30 October 1943.
- (g) Change No. 2 to Table of Organization No. 44-25, dated 26 November 1943.
- (h) Table of Organization and Equipment No. 44-25, dated 22 April 1944. Authority; Letter, First United States Army, File No. 320 (C), Subject; Reorganization, dated 4 November 1944.
- (i) Change No. 1 to Table of Organization No. 44-25, dated 31 May 1944.
- (j) Change No. 2 to Table of Organization No. 44-25, dated 16 July 1944.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

- (1) On 1 January 1944, 917.
(2) Net Increase each month,

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(a) January;	0.
(b) February;	0.
(c) March;	0.
(d) April;	0.
(e) May;	0.
(f) June;	0.
(g) July;	0.
(h) August;	0.
(i) September;	10.
(j) October;	0.
(k) November;	0.
(l) December;	0.
(3) Net Decrease each month;	
(a) January;	84.
(b) February;	27.
(c) March;	0.
(d) April;	4.
(e) May;	0.
(f) June;	5.
(g) July;	16.
(h) August;	4.
(i) September;	0.
(j) October;	2.
(k) November;	3.
(l) December;	0.
(4) On 31 December 1944;	792 .

X

- d. Stations (Permanent or temporary) of units or parts thereof.
- (1) Fort Bliss, Texas, 1 August 1944. Authority; General Orders Number 30, Headquarters Antiaircraft Command, Richmond, Virginia, dated 12 July 1942.
 - (2) Fort Knox, Kentucky, 17 February 1943. Authority; Special Orders Number 40, Headquarters Fort Bliss, Texas, dated 16 February 1943.
 - (3) Camp Stewart, Georgia, 18 June 1943.
 - (4) Tennessee Maneuver Area, Lebanon, Tennessee, 30 August 1943. Authority; Special Orders Number 236, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Stewart, Georgia, dated 24 August 1943.
 - (5) Camp Davis, North Carolina, 8 November 1943. Authority; Special Orders No. 1932, Maneuver Director Headquarters, Second United States Army, dated 29 October 1943; and Letter, Headquarters Second United States Army, File No. AG 370.5-16 GNLBF, Subject; Instructions Governing Domestic Troop Movements, dated 22 September 1943.
 - (6) New York Port of Embarkation, Camp Shanks, New York, 5 February 1944. Authority; Special Orders Number 27, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Training Center, Camp Davis, North Carolina, dated 1 February 1944.
 - (7) Ship Number 107, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, 11 February 1944. Authority; Special Orders Nos. 38 and 39, Army Service Forces, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, dated 8 and 9 February 1944.

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(8) Blackshawmoor Camp No. 2, Leek, Staffordshire, England, 24 February 1944. Authority: Letter, Headquarters Western Base Section, Services of Supply, European Theater of Operations, U. S. Army, File No. AG 322, Subject: Letter Orders Number 3-708, dated 25 March 1944.

(9) Maiden Newton, Dorset, England, 30 March 1944.

(10) Woolacombe, England, 17 April 1944. Authority: Movement Order Number 29, Headquarters VII Corps, dated 15 April 1944.

(11) St. Agnes Antiaircraft Range, St. Agnes, England, 25 April 1944. Authority: Movement Order Number 37, Headquarters VII Corps, dated 22 April 1944.

e. Marches;

(1) Purpose: Exercise and physical hardening and conditioning of all personnel.

(2) Length of daily march; Marches not conducted daily.

(3) Points between which marched with dates,

(a) Blackshawmoor Camp No. 2 to Leek, Staffordshire, England, and return; 10 miles; 28 February 1944; for church formation.

(b) Blackshawmoor Camp No. 2 to vicinity of Buxton, England, and return; 20 miles; 29 February 1944; hardening exercises.

(c) Blackshawmoor Camp No. 2 to Rudyard to Leek, Staffordshire, England, and return; 15 miles; 3 March 1944; hardening exercises.

(d) Blackshawmoor Camp No. 2 to Leek, Staffordshire, England, and return; 10 miles; 6 March 1944; hardening exercises.

(e) Blackshawmoor Camp No. 2 to vicinity of Buxton, England, and return; 15 miles; 10 March 1944; hardening exercises.

f. Campaigns;

(1) Name of; Normandy Campaign (No. 1)

(a) Duration; 6 June 1944 to 24 July 1944

(b) Purpose; Liberation of Normandy and destruction of German armies in northwestern France.

(c) Authority ordering; War Department General Orders Number 80, dated 5 October 1944.

(2) Name of; Campaign of Northern France (No. 1)

(a) Duration; 25 July 1944 to 14 September 1944.

(b) Mopping up of all German resistance in France.

(c) Authority ordering; War Department General Orders Number 80, dated 5 October 1944.

(3) Name of; Germany Campaign (No. 1)

(a) Duration; 15 September 1944 to an unannounced final date.

(b) Purpose; Breaching of the German border defenses and destruction of German armies in Germany.

(c) Authority ordering; War Department General Orders No. 80, dated 5 October 1944.

g. Battles.

(1) Name; Battle of Cherbourg.

(a) Place; Cherbourg Peninsula.

(b) Date; 18 June to 1 July 1944.

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- Campaign (No. 1).
 - (c) Campaign of which battle was a part; Normandy
 - (d) Forces engaged; VII Corps and attached units.
 - (e) Result; Capture of Cherbourg, France, and destruction of the German army assigned for its defense.
- (2) Battle of Periers.
 - (a) Place; Periers, France.
 - (b) Date; 2 July 1944 to 24 July 1944.
 - (c) Campaign of which battle was a part; Normandy
- Campaign (No. 1).
 - (d) Forces engaged; VII Corps and attached units.
 - (e) Result; Breaching of the German defense lines in the Periers sector and destruction of the German defense system in Western Normandy.
- (3) Name; Battle of St. Malo.
 - (a) Place; St. Malo, Brittany, France.
 - (b) Date; 6 August 1944 to 20 August 1944.
 - (c) Campaign of which battle was a part; Campaign of Northern France (No. 1).
 - (d) Forces engaged; 83d Infantry Division and attached units.
 - (e) Result; Capture of St. Malo and Dinard, France, and capture of the German garrison and defense installations.
- (4) Name; Battle of Duren.
 - (a) Place; vicinity of Duren, Germany.
 - (b) Date; 4 December 1944 to 26 December 1944.
 - (c) Campaign of which battle was a part; Campaign of Germany (No. 1).
 - (d) Forces engaged; VII Corps with attached units.
 - (e) Result; Front line established along the Roer River in the immediate vicinity of Duren, Germany.
- (5) Name; Counter-offensive against German attempts to breach Allied defense lines in Northern Luxembourg and Eastern Belgium.
 - (a) Place; Belgium.
 - (b) Date; 26 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.
 - (c) Campaign of which battle was a part; Campaign of Northern Germany (No. 1).
 - (d) Forces engaged; VII Corps with attached units.
 - (e) Result; Indefinite.

- h. Commanding Officers in important engagements.
 - (1) Engagement; all engagements listed in "g" above.
 - (2) Name; Lieutenant Colonel George W. Trousdale,

0189048, CAC.

- i. Losses in action; officers and men.
 - (1) Engagement; Battle of Cherbourg.
 - (a) Names;

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- 1 Killed,
Pfc Vernon E. Gluesing, 37439945, CAC.
- 2 Wounded,
Pvt Harold E. Clifton, 32755145, CAC.
- 3 Missing; None.
- 4 Taken Prisoner; None.
- (2) Engagement; Battle of Periers.
(a) Names;
1 Killed,
Pfc Gareth L. Shaw, 39200861, CAC.
Pvt Bruce M. Ross, 33732593, CAC.
Tec 5 Robert E. Jackson, CAC.
Pvt. Russell J. Ostrez, 39200129, CAC.
- 2 Wounded,
Pfc Raymond H. Arps, 35341300, CAC.
Tec 5 Louis W. Belluchie, 37354252, CAC.
Tec 5 Wallace P. Kerchner, 35396561, CAC.
Tec 5 Harry E. Wigton, 35420444, CAC.
Pfc Woodford B. Wiley, 35499744, CAC.
Pfc Steve Matwiju, Jr., 35340966, CAC.
Pvt Everett C. Rocks, 39394100, CAC.
- 3 Missing; None.
- 4 Taken Prisoner; None.
- (3) Engagement; Battle of St. Malo.
(a) Name;
1 Killed,
Pfc Jack E. Berger, 37518701, CAC.
- 2 Wounded; None.
- 3 Missing; None.
- 4 Taken Prisoner; None.
- (4) Engagement; Holding action in Luxembourg.
(a) Names;
1 Killed,
Cpl Vastene Rhew, 35494765, CAC.
Pvt Henry C. Manini, 35398351, CAC.
- 2 Wounded,
Pvt Elmer E. Churchill, 35716382, CAC.
- 3 Missing; None.
- 4 Taken Prisoner; None.
- (5) Engagement; Battle of Duren, Germany.
(a) Names;
1 Killed,
Cpl Joseph C. McGovern, 35341081, CAC.
Pfc Leonard C. Bayles, 39325968, CAC.
- 2 Wounded,
Pfc Henry J. Dabrowski, 16146161, CAC.
Pvt Jack A. Henderson, 17160345, CAC.
Pvt Merrill W. Stahl, 35392700, CAC.
- 3 Missing; None.
- 4 Taken Prisoner; None.

j. Present and former members who have distinguished themselves in action;

(1) Engagement;

(a) Battle of Cherbourg;

1 Name; Sergeant Vernon A. Fowler, 35372982, GAC.

2 Act; On 18 June 1944, near Azeville, France,

Sergeant Fowler commanded and directed fire of an automatic weapons section with great courage and coolness on enemy positions, in clear observation of the enemy lines, and under heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire.

Sergeant Fowler continued to direct his section in an outstanding manner until he was fatally wounded at his place of duty on 18 July 1944.

3 Reward; Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously)

(b) Battle of Periers.

1 Name; Private First Class Boris G. Adjieff, 151068

2 Act; On 7 July 1944, at Culot, France, Private First

Class Adjieff organized a gun crew to man an anti-tank gun abandoned by the infantry under enemy pressure, and moved the weapon by hand to a location with a good field of fire, from which point he directed fire on an enemy stronghold. During the operation, Private First Class Adjieff was constantly under enemy observation and heavy and continuous enemy artillery and small arms fire; nevertheless, Private First Class Adjieff continued to register hits on the enemy positions, and denied the enemy opportunity to advance immediately as infantry withdrew.

3 Reward; Recommendation for the British Military Medal

(c) Battle of Periers.

1 Name; First Lieutenant Henry C. Hedden, 01047565,

2 Act; While engaged in action with the enemy in the

vicinity of Culot, France, on 7 July 1944, First Lieutenant Hedden advanced into the village of Culot in the lead vehicle of two M16 Half-tracks in close support of infantry units. As the infantry began to give ground, the two vehicles were taken under small arms and artillery fire, both were hit, and members of the crews became casualties. Observing that the rear vehicle was immobilized and had the egress of the lead vehicle blocked, First Lieutenant Hedden ran to the rear, secured another vehicle, and, disregarding his own safety, returned and brought out the wounded. His heroic action was carried out under heavy and continuous enemy fire.

3 Reward; Bronze Star Medal; recommendation for the Croix de Guerre.

(d) Battle of Periers.

1 Name; Sergeant John Sams, 35341077, GAC.

2 Act; On 7 July 1944 at Culot, France, Sergeant John

Sams located and directed fire on an enemy sniper nest. The terrain was flat with the fields broken by hedgerows and apple orchards. The enemy was located in the hedgerows and in the nearby buildings, in the village of Culot. Despite the fact that he was exposed to heavy enemy artillery fire and under direct enemy observation, Sergeant Sams led a half-track to a favorable position from which he directed fire against the enemy time after time. Later, during the same day, Sergeant Sams, with complete disregard for his own safety, and under heavy and continuous enemy fire, went to the aid of some injured men and assisted in their evacuation to safety.

3 Reward; Bronze Star Medal; recommendation for the Croix de Guerre.

(e) Battle of Duren, Germany.

1 Name; Private Chester Davis, 39396397, MD.
2 Act; On 17 December 1944, a soldier of the 908th Field Artillery Battalion was seriously injured in the vicinity of Gressenich, Germany, by an exploding mine which destroyed one foot, a portion of the other foot, and caused additional damage to the legs, face, and one hand. The area in which the incident occurred was plainly marked as "mined" and a number of troops who witnessed the incident hesitated to render aid to the injured man. Private Chester Davis, however, with cool unconcern for his own personal safety and with the knowledge that primary responsibility for evacuation rested on the medical personnel of the 908th Field Artillery Battalion, went out to the injured man almost immediately, and after calmly rendering first aid to the individual, he directed the entry and departure of the men with a litter. Because of the calmness and judgement of Private Davis, there was no further injuries from mines in the area and the injured person was promptly evacuated for medical treatment.

k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events; None.

George W. Trousdale
GEORGE W. TROUSDALE
Lt. Col., GAC
Commanding