

THE OOZELFINCH

The Present Oozelfinch used by The 453rd. AAA. (AW) BN. was a product of Pvt. Voicunis of Cleveland Ohio.

It was instigated by Lt. Colonel George Fisher while the 453rd. was Stationed at Fort Knox KY. In the Spring of 1943.

A large sign with the modified Oozelfinch was displayed at the entrance to the Battalion area. A plaque with the Oozelfinch and each Battery listed, was also made at this time. This plaque was awarded to the Battery with the best Saturday Inspection, to hold for the following week. Needless to say, each Battery Commander bucked to have his Battery considered the best.

This constant rivalry prompted Pvt. John Lodge of B. Battery to comment, that "we didn't need another 'Oozelfinch' in B. Battery, we had Pvt. Frank Lawrence". Frank had quite a prominent proboscis. From then on Frank was called 'OOZY'.

The Oozelfinch was originally used by the Coast Artillery. The 453rd. AAA (AW) BN. originally was a branch of the Coast Artillery, hence the use of the Oozelfinch.

Supposedly the origin of the Oozelfinch was that of a European Bird of somewhat like description, with a name somewhat similar, called an Ezel Finch. Hence Oozelfinch.

Submitted by Fred C. Pearson