History of
453rd Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA)
Automatic Weapons (AW) Battalion

The following document was obtained from 453rd AAA-AW file of the National Archives and Records Administration. It appears to be the hand-written notes outlining the history of the 453rd AAA-AW Battalion from its' organization on August 1, 1942 through January 1, 1944.

The original of this document was approximately 11x17 inches, and has been reduced in size.

An official typed copy of the Battalion's history was issued on January 1, 1945. The official history of the Battalion was likely extracted from these hand-written notes. These notes were written by three different individuals, none of whom were cited as its' author.
1. Designation:
Four Hundred Fifty Third (453rd) Separate Coast Artillery Battalion
Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons

2. Date of Organization:
August 1, 1942

3. Place of Organization:
Fort Bliss, Texas

4. Authority for Organization:
General Order Thirty (30), paragraph one (per l), Headquarters Anti-Aircraft Command
Richmond, Virginia, dated July 29, 1942
By Command of Major General Urban

5. Sources from which Personnel Obtained:
Officers comprising the original cadre
group with former stations and duties
assigned in the Battalion:
Lt. Col. George W. Fisher, O-185565
Commanding Officer—former Harbor Defenses of
San Francisco
Major Hallard P. Greene, Jr. O-19501
Executive Officer—former 5th
Coast Artillery (Ay) Fort Hancock, New Jersey
Captain Stewart M. Chambers, O-238564
Adjutant—former 5th Coastal Artillery,
Fort Hamilton, New York
Captain Charles A. Brown, O-292150
S-3, former 6th Coastal Artillery,
Fort Wadsworth, Georgia
1st Lieutenant Samuel Cohen, O-385379
S-4, former 14th Coastal Artillery,
Fort Warden, Washington

Headquarters Battery
1st Lieutenant Robert K. Clark, O-451470
formerly 6th Coastal Artillery, Fort Scott, California
Battery A -
Captain Phillip C. Fitterspecker, O-297704
formerly 249th Coast Artillery, Fort Stevens, Oregon

Battery B -
Captain William R. Ward, O-321774, formerly
19th Coast Artillery, Fort Rosecrans, California

Battery C -
Captain Kenneth T. Silberberg, O-31030, formerly
14th Coast Artillery, Fort Worden, Washington
1st Lieutenant Stanley A. Green, O-391051
formerly 130th Coast Artillery, Fort Wainwright, California

Battery D -
1st Lieutenant Elaine G. Schmidt, O-36142, formerly
8th Coast Artillery, Fort Wainwright, California
1st Lieutenant Gordon A. Hewell, O-401843, formerly
18th Coast Artillery, Fort Stevens, Oregon

Enlisted Coce -
was furnished from the 60th Coast Artillery (AA) which was, on the date of
activation, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas

Fillers were furnished as follows -
Battery A 105 enlisted men from Fort Hayes,
Ohio, arrived October 9, 1942
37 enlisted men received from Camp Perry, Ohio, arrived October 12, 1942.

Battery B 103 enlisted men from Camp Perry,
Ohio, arrived October 10, 1942
37 enlisted men from Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, arrived October 12, 1942

Battery C 68 enlisted men from Fort Thomas,
Kentucky and 27 enlisted men Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, arrived October 12, 1942

Battery D 67 enlisted men from Fort
Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, arrived
October 12, 1942
Headquarters Battery 86th Artillery moved from Fort Thomas, Kentucky, arrived October 21, 1942.

6. In compliance with General Order Number 44, Headquarters, Anti-Aircraft Command, Richmond, Virginia, dated October 1, 1942, the 453rd Coast Artillery Battalion (AA) was reorganized effective October 10, 1942 from Semi-Mobile to Mobile under Table of Organization 4-135, dated April 1, 1942.

7. Friday, October 30, 1942
   Lt. Col. C.W. Fisher, Commanding Officer of the Battalion was host to the Officers and Ladies of the Battalion at a dinner dance. This marked the first official dinner since activation of the unit.

8. Saturday, October 31, 1942
   The first Battalion Parade was held followed by Escort of the Colors.
   Brigadier General James B. Crawford, Commanding the Anti-Aircraft Training Center, presented the Battalion with its National Colors.
   General Crawford highly commended the Battalion in its appearance and action.

9. Saturday, November 9, 1942
   The Battalion, less Battery D conducted an infantry march to Davis Lane Range where rifle qualification was held. The distance covered was twenty-two miles. The march started at 0800 and was completed at 1620. Battery D followed the same march November 9, 1942, starting at 0800 and finishing at 1530. The Battalion returned by convoy November 12, 1942.
Thursday, November 19, 1942 the Battalion moved by motor convey to Camp Huco, New Mexico for preliminary training prior to basic firing. Both 40 mm. and machine gun firing were accomplished at day and at night. Approval was expressed by AAATC of conduct and of firing.

The Battalion returned to Fort Bliss, Texas Saturday, November 28, 1942

Friday, December 11, 1942 Lt. Col. Fisher was guest at a banquet and dance in his honor given by the officers of the Battalion on the completion of his 30th year of commissioned service.

Sunday, December 20, 1942, the Battalion convoyed to Huco Firing range to remain for three weeks. Firing of the 40 MM and machine guns was accomplished both day and night. Due to bad weather, the Battalion remained until January 6, 1943.

Friday, January 16, 1943 the Battalion received 202 new enlisted men from Camp Wolters, Texas where they had completed 2 weeks training.

Monday, February 1, 1943 Lt. Col. Fisher and Mrs. Fisher were honor guest at a dinner dance held in El Paso Club of Cortez Hotel. Music for the occasion was furnished by the versatile musicians of this organization—"THE HELL-CATS" who are directed by Pvt. Sgt. Houston with 1st Lt. Edwards as Advisor.

Due to inclement weather the Bn was unable to complete the Service firing at Huco Range during the time originally allotted. Therefore by sending one Battery per day to Huco Range between the days of Feb 1st and Feb 5th we completed our Service firing with the 40 MM guns. A commendable record was made.
On February 16, 1943 this organization was ordered transferred from Fort Bliss, Texas to Fort Knox, Kentucky. This is the 1st AA organization to be assigned to the Armored Force for training. We were chosen for this assignment because of the excellent record our Bn had made at Fort Bliss. Lt. Col. Fisher, Capt. Brown, and Mr. Ford led the troop movement and were party to have most details arranged upon arrival of troops.

February 18, 1943 the first train of three left Fort Bliss, Texas to proceed to the new Station—Fort Knox, Ky. The trains left at 30 minute intervals. The AAC Band accompanied General Crawford to the train to bid us a farewell and Good-bye.

February 21, 1943 the Troops arrived at Fort Knox, Ky. Normal training was resumed after the new area had been made livable.

The week after arrival at Fort Knox was a very productive one to this Organization. It was during this week—Feb. 21—Feb. 28, 1943—that we received 171 new filters from the Pacific Coast.

Wednesday, March 25, 1943 the Battalion took its 1st motor convoy since arrival at Fort Knox Kentucky. We left Fort Knox at 0815 and returned at 1630 the same day. The Air force from Godman Field gave perfect cooperation and strafed our convoy all during the march. Hot lunches were fed the men for the meal.

Saturday, March 27, 1943 Lt. Col. Fisher inspected the Filters at a Parade for Filters only. These men had completed three weeks of training and made a fine showing.

Wednesday, March 31, 1943 Batteries B and D accompanied by Hgs Bty traveled by Motor Conway to Glendale, Ky. airport where an AA protection was set up for this Fout. Airport.
23- Wednesday, April 7, 1943 the entire Bn. was placed on an hypothetical alert to proceed to Germantown, Ky to protect a d-fil on Otter Creek. We proceeded by Motor Convoys to the gun positions specified. Much was gained by this field problem. We returned to Camp the same day.

24- Wednesday, April 14, 1943 the Fifths began their firing with rifles. Due to snow they were found to return to camp before completing their qualification rounds.

25- While the Fifths were firing, Lt. Col. Fisher took the remainder of the Bn. on a hike of 15 miles. Despite the snow and cold everyone returned from the hike in good condition. We left Bn. Area at 0810 and returned at 1210 the same day- Wednesday, April 14.

26- Thursday, June 17th the first of three trains departed from Ft Knox, Kentucky enroute to our new station—Camp Stewart, Georgia. This train arrived at Camp Stewart, Georgia on Saturday, June 19, 1943 with the other two trains arriving Sunday, June 20, 1943. The Bn. moved from camp to Bivouac Area immediately and began preparations for our firing on Camp Stewart Ranges.

27- In compliance with General Orders 5-3, Headquarters Armored Force, Ft Knox, Kentucky, dated May 7, 1943 the 453rd Coast Artillery (AAA) Bn was redesignated and reorganized effective June 1, 1943, from Coast Artillery to Anti-Aircraft Artillery under Table of Organization 40-25 dated February 27, 1943.

28- Monday, July 11, 1943—BATTALION CONDUCTED THE SERVICE FIRING TEST WITH 40 MMS AND 50 CAL. MACHINE GUNS. A FINE SHOOTING WAS MADE.
29  Monday August 16, 1943 - Lt. Col. George W. Fisher, our Commanding Officer, received orders transferring him to command of the 377th AAA AW BN. In token of our appreciation of him as an officer and as a man, the officers of the battalion presented him a watch at his departure.

30  Tuesday August 17, 1943 - Major Thomas W. Smith was 0102761 was assigned to command our organization.

31  Monday, August 2, 1943 - The battalion having completed forty-one weeks of training on Saturday, July 31, 1943, leaves and furloughs became authorized leaving only a skeleton force of officers and men on duty, the battalion "went home."

32  Wednesday, August 18, 1943 - Battalion receives orders to move to Lebanon, Tennessee, by September 2, 1943. To go on maneuvers with Second Army. Announcement of the news to the battalion was met with jubilation and thunderous applause.

33  The battalion having completed eight weeks of maneuvers, experiencing hardships of field conditions and gaining invaluable experience, it left the Tennessee Maneuver Area on November 8, 1943, and moved by motor convoy to Fort Dickson, North Carolina, by five days for the trip. It was a difficult but the men had fun all. The first night was spent at Ft. Oglethorpe.
34. The Battalion was greatly thrilled to get back to a mansion setting, having endured the region of field condition and continued GI inspection for an uninterrupted five months. Funny thing, the organization had made almost 60,000 miles and killed the first two weeks after arrival in Germany than when it had had its first field at any one given period of time. During the first few months new men arrived at Bragg B. The first soldiers were from 308th Infantry 42nd Inf. 35. On December 27, 1943, the Battalion made a change of location in the Camp Davis area, moving by motor convoy from the Fort Fisher area to the Maple Hill area of the Camp Davis Reservation.

36. On Saturday, January 1, 1944, New Year's Day, the Battalion exchanged the change of Commanding Officer. Major Thomas H. Smith was replaced by Lt. Col. George W. Fondy, native Louisianian.