Hawaiian Antiaircraft Artillery Command Scrapbook

John C. Wright
222 Evert
North Hempstead
A2

Charles E. Stoner
138 W. Church St.
Frederick, Md.

Fred Maretto
123 Main St.
Medford, Mass.

Arthur Barnhart
14 Valley Ave.
Malden, Mass.

Peter Zelos
605 Windsor St.
Cambridge, Mass.

Tom Fallon
111 Pine Street
Halifax, Mass.

Property of
R.F. Bailey

Bob Rash

John Hayes
Jenkins
Kentucky

[Handwritten signatures]
This book was prepared with the intention of preserving pictorially the life and experiences of the soldier during his period of service in the HAWAIIAN AAA COMMAND. It is hoped that it will provide his family and friends with an enlightening and interesting perspective of a cross-section of this particular phase of military life, and that he will find it a source of pleasant reminiscence in the future.
ORDER OF CONTENTS

Brigadier General R. M. Perkins
December 7th
Since December 7th
Automatic Weapons
AA Guns
AA Searchlights
Training in Allied Subjects
Roll Call (a) Units of Command
(b) Locales of Action

UPPER LEFT: 120mm AA gun and crew.
UPPER RIGHT: 60° AA Searchlight in operation.
LOWER LEFT: 40mm Gun on exhibit.
To the Officers and Men of the Hawaiian Antiaircraft Artillery Command:

Everywhere in the Pacific you have made a vital contribution to the success of the war against our enemy. You fired the first shots of the war in defense of Pearl Harbor and have since participated in every amphibious operation in the Mid Pacific from Hawaii to the very shores of Japan. You have endured the monotony of long and arduous months of duty in isolated areas.

Together with the Air Forces you have protected Pearl Harbor from another devastating attack and as a result are partially responsible for the speed with which our forces have fought their way across the Pacific.

You have done your job well and have demonstrated your talents under the most difficult conditions. You have earned the admiration and respect of the entire Army by your ability to perform creditably any task in a minimum of time.

Your brilliant work has contributed to the success of Antiaircraft Artillery in the entire Pacific. I am proud of your achievements. They are an outstanding contribution for which your country is grateful.

BRIGADIER GENERAL R. M. PERKINS
Hawaiian Antiaircraft Artillery Command
Commanding

R. M. PERKINS
Brigadier General USA
Commanding
A complete story of the attack on December 7th cannot be told here, but a graphic picture of AAA participation during that day can be seen from examples of such field reports as:

**DATELINE:**
**PEARL HARBOR:**
**DECEMBER 7th 1941**
**ALERTED:** 0810
**READY TO FIRE:** 0830
**ENGAGED ENEMY:** 0830

"During this firing, Private York, gunner, was wounded. He stayed at his post though ordered many times to take cover. Battery fire broke up and turned back one formation of fifteen enemy planes." **CASUALTIES:** One officer—Dead, killed proceeding to his battle position through Hickam Field. Four enlisted men wounded."

An AAA detachment shot down four enemy planes and saved a four-engine bomber by causing enemy planes to pull away and abandon the attack.

One battery position near the entrance to Pearl Harbor was subjected to strafing action by low-flying aircraft on each torpedo run.

Many reports such as these continued to arrive at the AAA battle command post throughout the day, and when the final tabulations of action, casualties and heroism were made they showed that the AAA units had acquitted themselves creditably.
ORGANIZATION and a high standard of training were responsible for the quick and efficient manner in which the AAA units assumed their wartime role on December 7th. These units were first commanded by the 53rd CA Brigade (AA).

The Hawaiian Antiaircraft Artillery Command was activated on March 15, 1942, and commanded by Brigadier General Harold F. Nichols. General Nichols later returned to the Mainland and was succeeded by Brigadier General R. M. Perkins, on April 7, 1944. All this took place before the Allies had begun to penetrate Japan's inner defenses by taking island after island in preparation for a decisive blow at the heart strength of the Japanese Empire.

When the full weight of the American task forces began to move west, many units of this command were assigned to them as defenders of the beaches and air-strips and as primary offensive forces in these campaigns.

On May 10, 1945, the command was redesignated by War Department Orders as the 2273d Antiaircraft Artillery Command (HAW). Today, as proof of the limitless value of good training and preparation, soldiers of the Hawaiian Antiaircraft Artillery Command have written an enviable chapter in the antiaircraft record of the Pacific War.
Mural depicting the AAAIS plotting board at the Air Defense Control Center by Pfc. Paul Wood.
The Automatic Weapons Units are essential to a complete antiaircraft defense. Built around the Bofors 40-millimeter all-purpose gun and the .50 caliber machine gun, the Auto Wpns battery's primary mission is that of defense against fast, low-flying, hostile aircraft. A high rate of fire and rapid rate of traverse that spell death to any hostile plane within range compensate for their lack of range. Success of their mission depends upon speed, teamwork, and ability to recognize aircraft within a split second.

Auto Wpns men will never forget the long and tedious hours spent in care and maintenance of equipment, aircraft recognition, gun drill, improvement of positions, and practice firing. They know these things are essential, and they practice them faithfully in non-combat areas. They know their training was not in vain when they meet the enemy.
Painting by Pfc. Paul Wood of an automatic weapons gun section during target practice on the windward side of Oahu.
A 40mm gun crew standing by at Iwo Jima.

"Thinking of Home," a sketch by Sgt. Ken Reid, portrays a .50 cal. machine gunner during a lull in the battle.
A multiple .50 caliber machine gun mount furnishing AA protection for landing activities during the battle of Iwo Jima.

Dave DeFazio
Allentown PA, 24/7/80

Thomas Biamonte
203 5th Street
Carlstadt New Jersey

Charles Keim
Chicago C/0
Joseph M. Ward
New, Mt. Forest Park, Forest 603-5

AAA men lay landing mat at Iwo Jima to facilitate landing of antiaircraft guns.
40mm Bofors antiaircraft gun sketched by Sgt. Ken Reid at the 1945 Army Day exhibit.
THEN: 40mm gun crew in action in the early part of the war.

NOW: A recent photograph of a 40mm gun crew during artillery drill.
The basic weapon of a gun battery is the 120 millimeter or 90 millimeter gun. Vertical range of the 120mm gun is about 48,000 feet while the older 90mm gun has fired on targets at altitudes of 30,000 feet. Extreme accuracy and versatility of these two weapons have placed them high on the list of offensive and defensive armament. Both guns are equipped with remote control tracking devices and in addition to their principal use as antiaircraft weapons, they have been used to fire on stationary land targets as well as mechanized equipment and ships at sea.
In this reproduction of a Dean Cromwell painting by Cpl. Raymond Yordan, the fuse on the projectile of a 120mm AA gun is being positioned for cutting after which it will be rammed into the breach of the gun and fired.
Sketches of the Army Day Exhibit
by Sgt. Ken Reid.
Two batteries of 120mm antiaircraft guns at a firing range somewhere in Hawaii.
Painting by Cpl. Raymond Yordan.
ALERT: Men hurry to their battle stations as a general alert is sounded announcing the approach of unidentified aircraft.

Painting by Cpl. Raymond Yordan
AA Gun Battery preparing for fire at Kaena Point, Oahu.
Painting by Cpl. Raymond Yordan.
AAA Searchlight Units are organized around the 60" searchlight, the power plant which furnishes power for operation, the distant electric control station which aids in tracking targets visually and the radar which locates and tracks unseen targets. Searchlights have a dual mission, that of illuminating hostile targets for interception by friendly fighter aircraft, or if the tactical situation dictates, for AA Guns; and through the medium of radars, to detect the presence of enemy aircraft. Lights are grouped into one of two classifications: they are either "pick-up" or "carry lights." The "pick-up" lights, guided by data furnished by the radars, furnish initial illumination. The "carry" lights "go in" after the target is illuminated and carry it until the next carry light has made a pick up. The target is passed in this manner from unit to unit over the defended area.
Searchlights in action during a night antiaircraft tracking exercise on Oahu.

Painting by Pfc. Paul Wood.
"Operation Instruction" (above) and "In Action"
by Sgt. Ken Reid.
The operator peering through the binoculars of this Distant Electric Control Station is sighting the beam of the searchlight on target.
This searchlight operator has put his light in action and is awaiting further orders from the section leader.

Switchboard Operator
Sketched by Sgt. Ken Reid.
Training in Allied Subjects
Crew of 40mm Bofors antiaircraft gun await the order to simulate fire.

The loaders and operators of a .50 caliber quadruple machine gun mount track a target during artillery drill.
The tracker crew is training the 120mm antiaircraft guns which are firing at a radio controlled target airplane. Painting by Cpl. Raymond Yordan.
Illumination of a target at night by 60-inch searchlight during a combined gun and searchlight exercise.
Decontaminating a M51 Multiple MG mount and flak tower. "Chemical Warfare Instruction" by Cpl. Raymond Yordan.
Day in, day out. War or Peace
Physical training is recognized as one of the most beneficial types of military training. Sketch by Sgt. Ken Reid.
ROLL CALL

2273d Antiaircraft Artillery Command (HAW)

BRIGADES

48th
53d
53d Intelligence Battery
70th

162d

OPERATIONS DETACHMENTS

163d

GROUPS

28th
36th
43d

98th
137th
138th
139th
369th

GUN BATTALIONS

64th 428th 506th 753d
93d 429th 514th 754th
96th 501st 516th 755th
97th 502d 738th 771st
98th 503d 750th 947th
369th 504th 751st 948th
505th 752d

AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

BATTALIONS

7th 779th 845th 867th
206th 793d 861st 868th
392d 811th 864th 869th
483d 840th 865th 870th
485th 842d 866th

ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY
SEARCHLIGHT BATTALIONS

230th 294th 295th 296th
325th

BALLOON BARRAGE

305th 320th

ATTACHED UNITS

264th Army Band 297th Army Band
269th Army Band 299th Army Band
293d Army Band

716th SLT Battery 726th SLT Battery
762d SLT Battery

76th Gun Battery 77th Gun Battery

878th Gun Battery 879th Gun Battery
880th Gun Battery 881st Gun Battery

REGIMENTS

64th CA (AA) 95th CA (AA) 97th CA (AA) 251st CA (AA)
93d CA (AA) 96th CA (AA) 98th CA (AA) 369th CA (AA)
LOCALES OF ACTION

SAIPAN
86th AAA Group
501st AAA Gun Bn
751st AAA Gun Bn (less C & D Batteries)
206th AAA Auto Wpns Bn (less C & D Batteries)
738th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
884th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
855th AAA Auto Wpns Bn (less B & C Batteries)
B & C Batteries, 867th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
B Battery, 296th AAA Slt Bn
B Battery, 230th AAA Slt Bn (2d Platoon)
296th Army Ground Forces Band

GUAM
64th AAA Gun Bn
771st AAA Gun Bn
7th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
868th AAA Auto Wpns Bn (less B & C Batteries)
C Battery, 294th AAA Slt Bn (1st Platoon)

PALAU ISLANDS
751st AAA Gun Bn (less A & B Batteries)
771st AAA Gun Bn (less A & B Batteries)
851st AAA Auto Wpns Bn (less C & D Batteries)
C Battery, 230th AAA Slt Bn (1st Platoon)

PHILIPPINES & OKINAWA
97th AAA Group
502d AAA Gun Bn
504th AAA Gun Bn
7th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
485th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
861st AAA Auto Wpns Bn
856th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
C Battery, 294th AAA Slt Bn (1st Platoon)
A Battery, 295th AAA Slt Bn
230th AAA Slt Bn (less B & C Batteries)
C Battery, 230th AAA Slt Bn (2d Platoon)

IWÓ JIMA
138th AAA Group
506th AAA Gun Bn
752d AAA Gun Bn
947th AAA Gun Bn
206th AAA Auto Wpns Bn (less A & B Batteries)
483rd AAA Auto Wpns Bn
C Battery, 235th AAA Slt Bn
163rd AAA Operations Detachment
285th Army Ground Forces Band

TINIAN
297th Army Ground Forces Band

CANTON
428th C. A. (Comp)

CHRISTMAS
429th C. A. (Comp)

PALMYRA
D Battery, 93d AAA Gun Bn
A Battery, 868th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
B Battery, 294th AAA Slt Bn (1st Platoon)

BAKER
B Battery, 93d AAA Gun Bn
D Battery, 751st AAA Gun Bn
B & D Batteries, 869th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
B Battery, 295th AAA Slt Bn (3d Platoon)

APAMAMÀ
A Battery, 93d AAA Gun Bn
C Battery, 753d AAA Gun Bn
C Battery, 869th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
Hq 296th AAA Slt Bn
B Battery, 294th AAA Slt Bn (less 1st Platoon)

OKINAWA
53d AAA Brigade
43d AAA Group
44th AAA Group
138th AAA Group
137th AAA Group
93d AAA Gun Bn
98th AAA Gun Bn
369th AAA Gun Bn
503d AAA Gun Bn
505th AAA Gun Bn
514th AAA Gun Bn
948th AAA Gun Bn
779th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
870th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
C Battery, 294th AAA Slt Bn
C Battery, 230th AAA Slt Bn
325th AAA Slt Bn
162d AAA Operations Detachment

TARAWA
755th AAA Gun Bn
C & D Batteries, 811th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
C Battery, 296th AAA Slt Bn

KWAJELIN AND ENIWETOK
139th AAA Group
96th AAA Gun Bn
753d AAA Gun Bn (less C & D Batteries)
867th AAA Auto Wpns Bn
A Battery, 296th AAA Slt Bn
B Battery, 230th AAA Slt Bn