

Following the induction of the 205th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-aircraft) (Mobile) on 3 February 1941, the units were assembled in the North Fort Lewis area for training. The strength at the time of organization of the regiment in November of 1939, was 48 officers and 1,187 enlisted men. When the regiment was inducted the strength of the officers had increased to 67, while the strength of the enlisted men had shrunk to 1,040. This was no doubt due to enlistment of members in the regular army and the weeding out of the unqualified, including those with physical disabilities.

On 11 June 1941, the Commanding General, Fourth Army was directed to organize one (1) Battery of Coast Artillery (AA) (Automatic-Weapons) with a strength of 5 officers and 136 enlisted men for movement to Seward, Alaska on the United States Army Transport "Grant" sailing on about 15 June 1941. Based upon this directive, Battery "E" was selected and sailed from Seattle on 25 June 1941 and arrived at Seward on 30 June 1941.

On 24 July 1941, two (2) batteries (Gun) of the 205th with one (1) Search-light Platoon attached to each and one (1) Battery (Automatic Weapons) were directed to move from Fort Lewis to Alaska. Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 205th; 1 Platoon (SL) Battery A; Batteries C, D and H, departed Fort Lewis and arrived at Camp Murray (Alaskan Staging Area) on 6 August 1941. One (1) Platoon (SL) Battery A, Battery D and Battery H, 205th departed Seattle on board USAT "GRANT" on 15 August 1941 and arrived at Sitka, Alaska on 18 August 1941. Detachment, Hq & Hq Battery, 205th departed Seattle on board the USAT "CLEVEDON" on 19 August 1941 and arrived Seward, Alaska on 22 August 1941. One (1) Platoon (SL) Battery A, and Battery C, 205th departed Seattle on board USAT "PRESIDENT TAFT" on 30 August 1941 and arrived at Seward, Alaska on 4 September 1941.

Letter from the War Department dated 29 October 1941 directed the movement of the 205th, less elements in Alaska from Fort Lewis to Camp Haan (Los Angeles) California. The regiment, less units in Alaska, departed Fort Lewis on 14 November 1941 and arrived at Camp Haan on 22 November 1941 where it was assigned to the 37th Coast Artillery Brigade (AA).

Based upon orders of the Alaskan Defense Command, dated 8 March 1942, and effective 17 April 1942, personnel and equipment of elements of the 205th in Alaska were transferred to units in Alaska as follows: Detachment, Hq & Hq Battery, 205th to Hq & Hq Battery, 420th Coast Artillery Battalion (Comp) (AA); 1st and 2nd Platoons (SL) of Battery A, 205th to 1st and 2nd Platoons, Battery A, 420th; Batteries C, D, E and H to Batteries C, B, E and D, 420th. Concurrently, with the completion of this transfer, the elements of the 205th, less personnel and equipment, were transferred to Camp Haan. Similar action was taken with Battery G, 205th which was ordered to Alaska with its personnel, was transferred to the 240th; and released back to the 205th CA, less personnel and equipment. This unit arrived from Camp Haan at Camp Murray on 17 May 1942; departed from Seattle on 24 May and arrived at Fort Glenn on 4 June 1942. The release back to the 205th was effective 6 June 1942.

In May of 1942, the Commanding General, Western Defense Command was directed to reorganize elements of the 205th into a semi-mobile regiment and

bring the regiment up to a full strength of three battalions. This action, except for Battery G, was completed 19 June 1942 and the regiment redesignated as the 205th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-aircraft)(Semi-mobile). Organization of Battery G was completed on 3 July 1942. In the meantime the 205th was ordered to Los Angeles on temporary duty. On January 15, 1943, this was made the regiment's permanent station.

On 10 September 1943, Hq & Hq Battery, 205th CA (AA) (SM) was redesignated Hq & Hq Battery, 205th Anti-aircraft Group; 1st Battalion, 205th was redesignated the 770th Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion; 2nd Battalion, 205th became the 530th Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion; and the 3rd Battalion, 205th was redesignated as the 240th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Searchlight Battalion. The 205th CA Band was redesignated as the 262nd Army Band, effective 10 December 1943.

On 15 April 1944, all anti-aircraft artillery and searchlight units in the Western Defense Command were reassigned to the Fourth Air Force for complete and integrated combined air defense training and for air defense of the West Coast.

In a letter dated 30 July 1944, Hq & Hq Battery, 205th AAA Group was directed to move from Santa Monica (Los Angeles) California to Camp Bowie, Texas. The Group departed on 18 August 1944 and arrived at Camp Bowie, Texas on 21 August 1944, where the unit was inactivated on 24 August 1944 and its personnel reassigned to the XXIII Corps of the Fourth Army.

On 10 February 1944, the 770th Gun Battalion was inactivated at Los Angeles by the Commanding General, IV Anti-Aircraft Command, concurrently with the activation of the 164th, 165th and 166th AAA Operations Detachments. Excess personnel of the Battalion were reassigned within the IV AAA Command.

At the same time the 530th AAA AW Battalion was directed to move to Camp Hulen, Texas where it arrived on 6 March 1944. It was reorganized on 1 April 1944 as the 530th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (Mobile). The Battalion departed Camp Hulen, Texas and arrived at Esler Field, Louisiana on 12 September 1944. Reassigned for an overseas shipment, the battalion left Esler Field and moved to Camp Polk, Louisiana on 10 October 1944. The battalion was then given a readiness date of 1 December 1944 for shipment overseas. This was later changed to 17 November and New York designated as Port of Embarkation. The advance detachment departed Camp Polk on 9 November and arrived at Fort Hamilton on 11 November 1944. The Battalion departed Camp Polk on 1 December 1944 and arrived at Camp Shanks, New York on 3 December where it boarded the "Queen Elizabeth" on 16 December 1944 and arrived at Greenock, Scotland on 21 December 1944. Upon its arrival in England, the battalion was assigned to the 111th AAA Group, 15th U S Army. On 13 April 1945, the battalion was in Germany; in Austria 15 May 1945; back in Germany 14 June 1945 from where it was ordered back to the United States. The 530th sailed from LeHavre, France on board the "LaCrosse" Victory" 23 October 1945 and arrived at New York Port of Embarkation on 31 October 1945. Unit was inactivated at Camp Shanks on 3 November 1945. This Battalion was awarded battle participation credits for CAMPAIGN CENTRAL EUROPE and RHINELAND CAMPAIGN.