



34th Infantry Division Association
7105 NW 70th Ave, Camp Dodge, A-9
Johnston, IA 50131-1824

NEWSLETTER April 2008

34th Infantry Division Association 2008 Reunion 4-5-6-7 Sep 2008

Des Moines, IA

The 2008 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association will be held 4-7 September 2008 in Des Moines, IA. The site of the reunion will be the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites on Merle Hay Road. This is the same location where we met in Sep 2007, but the hotel has changed it's name. The Des Moines Chapter, will host the event. Through the hard work of the committee, we have been able to reduce the cost of the event to a low price of \$80 per person. The \$80 buys the Buffet & Banquet Dinners, Bus Fare and Hospitality Room.

The actual events of the Reunion will be conducted on Friday and Saturday, 5-6 Sep only. Thursday, Sep 4, and Sunday, Sep 7, will be considered arrival and travel days only.

Besides normal reunion events we hope this year to add a tour of the Rifle Range at the Camp Dodge National Guard post to get a briefing on current small arms weapons and observe firing on the pop up target marksmanship range. We will also be able to observe the soldiers training on a laser weapon indoor firing range. We also will visit the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, the home of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division Memorial.

We also encourage family members of former "Red Bull" soldiers to attend and make a acquaintance with your fathers' old war buddies.

We would appreciate your help in giving us some ideas of the activities and entertainment that you would like to do or have during the Reunion. All ideas will be accepted, however not all may be practical, but they will be considered.

Please find at enclosure to this newsletter the application form to attend the 61st Annual Reunion. A printable form will also be available on the 34th Infantry Division WEB Site.

34th Division Association 2008 Reunion Schedule

Thursday, September 4th 2008 at Holiday Inn

Registration - 12:00 PM Missouri Room, Lower level
Hospitality Room - 12:00 PM - Illinois room, Lower level

Friday, September 5th 2008 at Holiday Inn

Registration 8AM- 7 PM- Missouri Room, Lower level
Hospitality Room - 8AM - 12:00PM Illinois Room
Bus Trip to Cp Dodge Museum - Leave Hotel at 1:30 PM
Free Time - 4:30 - Until - 6 PM
Buffet Dinner - 6:00 PM Salon C, Lobby area, main floor
"Entertainment - After meal"

Saturday, September 6th 2008

Registration - 8AM - Missouri Room, Lower level
Hospitality Room - 8 AM - 12:00 PM - Illinois room
Presidents Breakfast 7:30 AM - Iowa Board Room
Business Meeting: 10:30 AM - SALON C - MAIN LOBBY
Bus Trip to Camp Dodge Rifle Range - Leave Hotel at 1:30
Social Hour: 5 PM - Cash Bar.
Memorial Service 6:00 PM, SALON C, MAIN LOBBY
Banquet - 6:30 PM - Heartland South, Lobby Area
Entrance "Entertainment after the Dinner"

Sunday, September 2008

Dismissed - Have a safe trip home, Thanks for coming
Officers/Trustees Meeting - 8 AM Missouri Room



34th Division Memorial at Cp Dodge

SGM (Ret) Don Prock, 515-265-3546, or the Gold Star Museum 515-252-4531, for more information.
The Email for Don Prock is csmprock@aol.com

See you at the Reunion in Des Moines

National Office- 34th Infantry Division Assn

The National Office is located at the Iowa Gold Star Museum on Camp Dodge in the suburb of Johnston.

Address:

34 th Division Association Gold Star Museum, Bldg A-9 7105 NW 70 th Avenue Johnston, Iowa 50131
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National Secretary is CSM (Ret) Don Prock
E-mail csmprock@aol.com
Phone 515.252.4531

Association Website www.34indiv.org

CSM (Ret) Don Prock
Secretary/Treasurer
515.252.4531

61th Reunion for the 34 Inf Div Assn

4-7 September 2007
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
4800 Merle Hay Road
Urbandale (Des Moines), Iowa

Tri-State Reunion

July 10-13, 2008
Holiday Inn, Pittsburg, PA
See the 34th Division Association Website.



Association President - Don Singlestad receiving DFC
Don Singlestad of Company F/ 135 Inf, Owatonna, MN, was activated with the National Guard for WWII in Feb 41. After training with the division at Camp Claiborne, LA, he fought with the 135th in North Africa and Italy. Tech Sergeant Singlestad served the entire war with the 34th Inf Division. His address is 16127 Dakota Shores Dr, Park Rapids, MN 56470 Phone 218-732-7360

Thanks for the Help.

We have received a number of excellent donations at the Gold Star Museum of items collected by 34th Division Soldiers during WWII.

We are still looking for stories of your army life, funny or sad. - Books, notes, journals, letters home etc. They will be archived in the museum under the 34th Division file for researchers and historians.

34th ID Association Officers

The current officers were elected as follows:

President	Don Singlestad F/135 Inf
1 st Vice President	Richard Holmes A113 AAA
2 nd Vice President	John Ray
SGT at Arms	Mildred Fencil
Chaplain	Open
Historian/Web	Pat Skelly 133 Inf
Trustees 1 year	Ben Krall 133 Inf
	Ellen Ankrum 133 Inf
	Phil Daurio
Trustees 2 years	Lloyd Jerome
	John Churchman
	Russell Bierl 194 FA
Trustees 3 years	Roque Riojas 135 Inf
	Martin Winkle G/133 Inf
	Mike Beaman 168 Inf

34th Division Red Bull Insignia Design

By Sgt. Mike Nyman

When called into service during WWI for combat training, members of the 34th Infantry Division from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the Dakotas reported for duty but did not have a unit identity; they did not have a unit patch.

While training at Camp Cody in 1917, a dry area with a blazing hot landscape of sand plains located near Deming, N.M., the 34th Division was referred to as the "Sandstorm Division."

The following year, the Division, while looking for an insignia, organized a contest in order to select the best entry. The winning entry turned out to be a bull with an elongated Indian jar as a background. This design was officially approved as the division insignia on October 29, 1918.

The insignia designer was a young Private from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Marvin Cone. He based his design on elements of pre-Aztec history. Heavy jars placed over the heads of skeletons were found during the excavation of Indian grave sites.

Cone, who later became head of the Coe College art department, created a painting depicting life on the desert where the 34th Division was formed. He painted an elongated Indian jar combined with a white buffalo skull. In the background are sand hills, rocks, cacti, and a red sunrise. In the clouds at the top of the painting appear the words "Duty-Honor-Country."

The painting now hangs at the Veterans Memorial Commission in Cedar Rapids.

Information on the Red Bull insignia by Eldon D. Johnson, Cedar Rapids.

Gold Star Museum Expansion at Cp Dodge

The Gold Star Museum at Cp Dodge has received State of Iowa funding for the expansion of the museum. Design plans were approved in Jan 08 for an 16,000 Sq Ft addition to the current building. This will quadruple the exhibit area and double the library as well as add a 130 person theater. The exterior design was approved in February. More to follow.

Dirty Gertie Song & Others

Shown are a couple short songs that many men in the 34th Infantry Division heard when they were in North Africa & Italy. The Original version of "Dirty Gertie" from Sept 10th, 1943 issue of THE YANK is shown below along with "Bless Them All."

Dirty Gertie Dirty Gertie

Dirty Gertie from Bizerte
Hid a mouse trap 'neath her skirtie
Strapped it to her kneecap purty
Baited it with Fleur de Flirte
Made her boy friends' fingers hurty
Made her boy friends very shirty
She was voted in Bizerte
"Miss Latrine" for 1930

Second only to "Dirty Gertie" as favorite vocal selection when good U. S. soldiers get together over a beer or so is *Bless 'em All*, which dates back to World War I. This song really originated from an old British song.

When the Yanks stopped over in England enroute to Africa, they quickly made *Bless 'em All* their own by giving it some sex appeal. The following is one considerably bowdlerized version of the song they took to Africa:

Bless Them All

Bless all the blondies and all the brunettes.
Each lad is happy to take what he gets.
Cause we're giving the eye to them all,
The ones that attract or appall.
Maud, Maggie or Susie;
You can't be too choosy.
When you're in camp, bless 'em all.



Dirty Gertie was fond name given this dilapidated dummy by Sergeant V. M. Geroelli who rescued her from wreckage of a Bizerte shop. Dummy did not inspire famed song. Does anyone know SGT Geroelli?

State of Iowa Introduces Gold Star Plate



State Senator Daryl Beall is shown presenting a Gold Star License Plate to Mr. Bob Holliday and Col. Russ Bierl (Ret) at the State Capitol. They were at the capital for Veterans Day and briefed the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee about the expansion at Gold Star Museum. Senator Beall was the chief sponsor of legislation that created license plates for Gold Star Families. He also was one of the sponsors of the legislation that expanded The Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge (for info on the plates), see <http://www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ovs/plates/goldstar.htm>). The museum was presented the first Gold Star Family license plate for exhibit at the Museum.



OPENER, CAN, HAND, FOLDING, TYPE I

Known to most simply as the P-38, a name which it supposedly acquired from the 38 punctures required to open a C-Ration can. During WW II, Korean, and Vietnam Wars when hungry GI's were ready to dive into their delicious meal of C-Rations they used their trusty P-38's to open the cans. It was an amazingly simple little piece of 1-1/2 inch stamped metal that was developed in just 30 days by the Subsistence Research Laboratory Chicago during the Summer of 1942.

Originally, P-38's came wrapped in brown Kraft paper packets with a diagram and the directions how to use printed on it. About a dozen P-38's came packed in a case of C-Rations but eventually because everyone was hoarding them only 3 were included in a case. These handy gadgets have adorned the dog tag chains and key rings of WW II, Korean, and Vietnam War vets ever since they opened their first can of C-Rats with one. Many WWII and Korean War veterans still have a P-38 around the house.

FINAL ROLL CALL 2007, 2008

The final Roll Call was answered by the soldiers listed below since the last newsletter.

- Howard Ashcraft, Williamsburg, VA
- Calvin Nading, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Edward C. Hutterer, Minneapolis, MN
- Chester Harvey, Des Moines, IA
- Wayne Robinson, Waterloo, IA
- John Suchor, Towner, ND
- Walter Rydun, Still Water, WI
- Gilbert H. White, Cottonwood, AZ
- Alfred Thiel, Jr. Wausaukee, WI
- Joseph Ledakowski, New Port Richey, FL
- Roger B. Williams, Indianola, IA
- Paul McGinnis, Belle Fourche, SD
- Lillie Salmons, Des Moines, IA
- Tom Ralston, Cape Coral, FA
- Robert G. Scheifley, Arlington, VA
- William Higgins, Columbia, MO

NEW LIFE TIME MEMBERS FOR 2007/2008

- Robert Eischen
- Louis R. Difebbo
- Ferdinand Peters
- Garland Brandenburg
- Mary C. Lund
- George E. Webb

SPiced hAM

In 1937 Amelia Earhart disappeared while trying to be the first woman to fly around the world, US Route 66 was officially completed, the Golden Gate Bridge opened, and Hormel Foods created *Hormel Spiced Ham*.

J. C. Hormel, son of founder George A. Hormel, held a contest for a better name for the new product and Kenneth Daigneau won the \$100 prize with the submission of SPAM. Kenneth was the brother of Hormel's vice president .

2007 marks the 70th anniversary of SPAM. By 1941, 40 million pounds of spam had been sold. With the start of the war and fighting in Europe, Hormel was supplying food to the troops and civilians of Britain and Russia at a rate of 15 million cans of spam per week. Nikita Krushchev's book says "...SPAM was fed to Russian soldiers in WW II." And British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher calls SPAM a "war time delicacy."

With the 70th anniversary, brings 3 cans in a "collector series" of spam, each showing a scene including a military image (still bragging after 62 years). In 2001 the SPAM Museum opened in Austin, MN. There is reference to the military in the exhibits.

Some articles I read seem to imply that Spam was issued to GI's by the military while other articles report that Spam only reached the GI or POW included in provisions provided by the Red Cross. Every soldier has a story about SPAM- Just like their WWI counterpart had a story about Corned Beef.

The 34th Infantry Division Association arranges for the placement of a Memorial Wreath at each of the American Cemeteries where 34th Division soldiers are buried, who were killed during WWII. Note the photo of the wreath and acknowledgement cards below.



**AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
ROME , ITALY**

**FLORENCE
AMERICAN CEMETERY & MEMORIAL**

**NORTH AFRICA
AMERICAN CEMETERY & MEMORIAL**

**SICILY-ROME
AMERICAN CEMETERY & MEMORIAL**



34TH INF. DIV. ASSOC.
Name
 W R E A T H
Plot Row Grave
 11 November 2007
Date of Decoration

133rd Infantry Regiment Monthly Report. Oct 1944. These are the last eight paragraphs from the Oct 1944, 133rd Infantry Regiment End of Month Report. The causality numbers in this excerpt show how the Regiment was decimated by the fighting near Mt. Belmonte Hill, Zena Castle, & Bologna. The loses for the 135th and 168th Inf Regiments were similar.

So the 133rd Infantry Regiment [ended] the month of October, 1944. For 31 days of almost continuous rainfall our troops fought successfully a bold and well armed enemy, amidst hindering mud and tiring mountains.

Not only was the 133rd Infantry pitted against the elements, the terrain and the battle wise German foot soldiers, but our troops also had to contend with possibly the most formidable artillery and mortar strength yet arrayed against any portion of the Fifth Army front in the Italian campaign. The Germans did not merely match our shells round for round: often they exceeded our shelling in volume.

Our sector was practically devoid of even fair routes in good weather. The abnormally poor weather in October made existing roads and trails impassable most of the period. The [report of] vehicles wrecked or mired mounted daily. Mule trains did yeoman service, but even they could not cope with steep, slippery stretches, so rations and ammunition frequently had to be arduously hand-carried. The highly unfavorable weather and terrain also posed grave problems in respect to the evacuation of the wounded and to wire communications.

The engineers who labored mightily in keeping all possible routes and bridges open despite earth-weakening rainfall and overflowing creeks and streams; the indefatigable "medics" and litter-bearers who braved enemy fire and the worst of weather time and again on their errands of mercy; the wiremen whom enemy shelling could not prevent from repairing vital lines; the mechanics who kept our vehicles operating as well as they did; the drivers and supply personnel who, under the most adverse conditions, furnished our front-line soldiers with food and clothing and ammunition - all the men behind the fighting men played an important, indispensable role in the advances of the month.

But the very greatest measure of credit for our victories goes perforce to the men who fought it out and sweat it out "up front". Through miring mud and driving rain they battled forward slowly but relentlessly against a fierce, often fanatical adversary. The ground we won, we won dearly - our casualties were high - but we pushed the enemy back irrevocably and so did our part in bringing a victorious peace nearer for those who live on.

What our brave soldiers endured to achieve their successes can perhaps be best appreciated in the light of the following cold but graphic figures:

During the month the Regiment suffered 709 casualties, the greatest in our history. Of those, 126 were killed in action, 157 missing, and 426 wounded. Five officers lost their lives, six were listed as missing in action, and 20 were wounded.

On 1 October the Regiment had an effective strength of 165 officers, five warrant officers, and 3234 enlisted men. On 31 October we had an effective strength of 149 officers, six warrant officers, and 2675 enlisted men. During the month we received seven officers, one warrant officer, and 177 enlisted men as replacements. Thus our strength experienced a drop of 574 men.

As of 31 October 1944 the 133rd Infantry had been overseas two years, nine months, and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Donald L. Nabity
DONALD L. NABITY
Captain, Infantry

**CELEBRATING 61 YEARS
34TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

2008 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE SIGN ME UP

THURSDAY SEPT 4 THRU SUNDAY SEPT 7, 2008

NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST(S) _____
_____ -

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ -

HOME PHONE () _____

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT _____

E-MAIL _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS UPON ARRIVAL

REGISTRATION FEES **NUMBER OF PERSONS** _____

X \$80.00 = TOTAL: _____

**PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK OR MONEY
ORDER TO:**

**DES MOINES CHAPTER
34TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
7105 N.W. 70TH AVE, BLDG A-9
JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131-2416**

REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15TH 2008

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE INTO MOTEL NOT LATER
THEN AUGUST 15TH 2008.**

TELEPHONE: 515-278-4755 OR 1-800-HOLIDAY.