

34th Infantry Division Association

The Email for the Association is:

goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov WEB

Site is: www.34indiv.org

7105 NW 70th Ave

Johnston, IA 50131

Summer 2010 Issue -

The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is published three times a year. Coming Issue is, Fall 2010.



34th Infantry Division Association 2010

Reunion – Des Moines, IA

The 2010 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division will be held September 9-10-11-12 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Our Association President, Pat Skelly, made the announcement at the 62st reunion last July. Please note that the dates will be on the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday after the Labor Day weekend.

The reunion site will be the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines. The Hotel is located two blocks off of Interstate 35 / 80. Information on reservations and an application form is included in this newsletter.

The 2010 National Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. will be hosted by the Des Moines Chapter with assistance from other Iowa Chapters. Des Moines is the traditional home of the 34th Infantry Division and the site of the 34th Infantry Division World War II monument. The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum will be open to support the activities of the 34th Infantry Division Association members.

Current officers of the association who will assist us for the reunion are; President, Pat Skelly, 1st VP, COL Ron Albrecht, 2nd VP, John Sunins, 1 Year Trustees: Roque Riojas, Al Maupin, Mike Beaman. 2 Year Trustees: S. Don Singlestad, Larry Lewer, Gene Alexander. 3 Year Trustees: Richard Holmes, Darline Smith, Don Prock. Secretary Russell Bierl, Treasurer Michael Musel, and SGT at Arms Mildred Fencil.

National Office-34th Infantry Division Assn.

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

Phone 515-252-4531

Secretary: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl

E-mail: bierlhome@msn.com

Association Website www.34indiv.org

Treasurer: LTC (Ret) Michael Musel

E-mail: michael.musel@iowa.gov

515-252-4531

Historian: Pat Skelly

E-mail: webmaster@34indiv.org

508-524-3948

63th Reunion for the 34 Infantry Division Assn.

9-10-11 September 2010

Holiday Inn & Suites, Urbandale, IA *(Please find more information with a reservation form in this newsletter)*

“The Fighting Fool” by S. Don Singlestad

The 34th Infantry Division Association is proud to announce that a new book has been published, which explains the life and World War II experiences of S. Don Singlestad. It is a very interesting read which covers the activities of a small town boy from Emmons, MN who was mobilized as a National Guard infantry soldier with F Company, 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division.

T/Sgt. Don Singlestad was soon recognized as a natural leader during the division's early days of maneuvers at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. He, along with Pvt. Jerry Rooney, were the only two original unit members to maintain their assignment with F Company throughout the division's move to England, North Africa and through most of the Italian Campaign. In January 1945 they were re-assigned to Cannon Company, 135th Infantry Regiment for the remainder of the war.

The experiences described in the book of T/Sgt Sylvester D. Singlestad may be some of the most interesting of World War II. Numerous times during the company's combat assignments, T/Sgt Singlestad was the most senior person left to perform the mission due to tremendous leader casualties. He turned down battle field promotions several times because he wanted to remain with his unit. He was designated as the unit reconnaissance leader and was comfortable working behind enemy lines by himself or with a squad. Many times he learned to work with partisans in both North Africa and Italy. Don had the natural ability to quickly grasp languages and communicate with people.

At one time in late 1944, T/Sgt Singlestad had build up enough time and points to be discharged from the Army and was sent back to the United States. Before the paperwork could be completed, the Army determined he was “Essential to the War Effort” and he was returned to duty in Italy, to again work with the partisans in preparation for the attack on Rome. He was so successful with his behind the lines partisan work that he was sent on further missions to the Switzerland border area. His final official mission was to put down a civilian conflict at a disputed site of the Italian - French border which involved him being placed in charge of a survey team to officially mark the border location.

(Continued on Page 5)

A Note from Association President Pat Skelly

Greeting to All Red Bulls,

The times, they are a-changin':

When the 34th Infantry Division Association was formed, the officers, trustees - and yes, its members - were all World War II Red Bull veterans.

As any organization must, we assured our survival with a welcome that extended beyond the National Guardsman, and included spouses and family members. Red Bulls of the Cold War era later became our association's leaders, and then spouses and descendants of our veterans ably filled in our offices. Our evolution and longevity continue thus, because of all your efforts.

Another thing which assures our vigor is, sadly, the continuing call upon the Red Bulls of today's 34th Infantry Division. This nation's draft upon our assigned units and individuals within recent memory - Bosnia, Sinai, Iraq, Afghanistan and other corners - cannot help but perpetuate your history.

Wherever I go when I wear our shirt, jacket, or hat, I meet serving soldiers who recognize "Red Bull" and they thank you - through me - for what you did and do.

In our Memorial Services we recognize and honor fallen Red Bulls of the current campaigns and deployments with the same pride and honor as we do those soldiers who were 'over there' from 'Operation Torch', November 1942, in North Africa to 'Quarantine Tito', October 1945, on the Yugoslav border.

And now, for the rest of the story:

The 10th Mountain Division, despite their fine record and worthy service, has never relieved the 34th Infantry Division as some would have you believe. But we relieved and sent them home twice: July 1945 in Venezia Giulia and April 2009 in Basra.

Attack! Attack! Attack!

Patrick Skelly
honored to be your
2009-2010 President,
and a son of the Ironman Battalion.



Help Us Find These 34th Infantry Division Soldiers

Their mail is being returned to us. They are life members and we lost their address. Please call, or Email their address 515-252-4531

George Webb, Life Member, 34th Inf Div

Randall Campbell, Life Members, 34th Inf Div

Final Roll Call to Date 2010

Kurt Kolben L 168th Inf
John A Moore HQ 168th Inf
Harry Halverson 34th ID
Howard Hicks 34th ID
Charles Radford I 133rd Inf
Donald S Hoagland I 135th Inf
Jack Pethel 34th ID
Al Thiel K 168th Inf
Chesley R Houske A 109th Eng
Roland McClymont 34th ID
Leonard Aslakson 34th ID
Bertrand Strandlund 3 -135th Inf
Shigeo Sora D 100th Inf
Roy H Fujihara B 100th Inf
Toshio Fukuda HQ 100th Inf
Nohara T Shinko C 100th Inf
John K Kawakami B 100th Inf
Toshimi Sodetani C 100th Inf
Roy T Terada B 100th Inf
Jack Y Harada B 100th Inf
Mitsuo Nagaki A 100th Inf
Masanori Moriwake HQ 100th Inf
Ellen Ankrum Wife
John Y Ohye C 100th Inf
Frank K Maeda A 100th Inf
Reuben S Ushijima 100th Inf
Koyei Matsumoto B 100th Inf
Martin J Slominski 34th Inf Div
Donald Joyce 34th Inf Div
Henry E Kobayashi 100th Inf
Michael C Elliott HQ 1-135th Inf
Robert R Vandenberg 34th Inf Div
Harlan M Flink B 109 Med
Jimmy A Nakamura B 100th Inf
Michael Y Hirata A 100th Inf
Richard C Nagao A 100th Inf
Takeo Azama B 100th Inf
Tamotsu Hasegawa A 100th Inf
Dominic Della Vedova 168th Inf
Franklin H Farris 34th Inf Div

*May they have no more hills to
climb,
nor cold, nor rain, nor mud, nor
enemy fire,
and may they now rest in Peace.*

34th Infantry Division Association • 63rd Annual Reunion September 9th, 10th & 11th, 2010 • Des Moines – (Urbandale), IA

This year's 63rd reunion of our Association is being hosted by the Des Moines Chapter, under President Pat Skelly.

The 34th Division Association will meet at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, IA (Urbandale) on the 9th, 10th & 11th of September, 2010.

THE ARRANGEMENTS

Lodging: the Reunion Headquarters will be the **Holliday Inn Hotel & Suites**, telephone (515) 278-4755 - which will offer us rooms at the outstanding rate of \$77, plus taxes. This was the site of the 2007 and 2008 Reunions, and they have always provided us with outstanding support. Parking is free. Bennigans Restaurant is attached to the hotel. Make your reservations by August 15th.

An association **Hospitality Room** will be available Thursday afternoon through Saturday evening except at mealtimes and association meetings. Our memorabilia and historical documents will be displayed. Snacks and drinks (including beer and wine) will be available.

The hotel provides **van transportation** to and from the Des Moines International **Airport**, which is located 12 miles from the hotel. Let us know your requirements if they are special.

Please keep in mind that you need to do two things in order to join us in Des Moines:

- Make the **Hotel reservation** – Holliday Inn and Suites, (515) 278-4755 www.holidayinn.com/desmoinesia
Ask for 34th Inf Div Room Rate. Computer Group Code is **DIV**
- Send in your individual **Reunion Registration** - the form is included in this newsletter (Page 8) to the Association.

Final details and any updated information will be posted to our Association website (<http://www.34infdiv.org>) .

THE PROGRAM

Thursday afternoon, September 9th, we will gather at the **hospitality room** in the Hotel Illinois Room. Social sponsored by the Des Moines Chapter of the 34th Infantry Division Association. (Donations Welcome)

Friday, September 10th, all association members are invited for a tour of the new **Iowa Veterans Cemetery**. A bus will take the group to the cemetery and a tour will be provided by the Veterans Affairs Cemetery staff. We will return to the hotel for lunch- Individual pay. In the afternoon we will tour the **U.S. Army National Maintenance Training Center** at Camp Dodge. In the evening we will have a **Buffet Dinner** at the Holliday Inn Hotel with entertainment.

Saturday, September 11th, the association membership will meet in **Salon C** for the **Annual Business Meeting** of our association: the presentation and approval of reports, elections, and decisions on their future activities. A spousal event will be held at the same time in the Hospitality room. After the business meeting, **Mr. Pat Skelly** will provide us with a **lecture** "Things We Need To Remember About WWII." In the afternoon we will visit the 34th Division Monument at Cp Dodge as well as the **Iowa Gold Star Military Museum**, which is the office site for the 34th Infantry Division Association. On Saturday evening at 6 P.M. we will conduct our **Annual 34th**

Division Memorial Service with Chaplain (MAJ) Gary Selof of the Iowa National Guard. It will include a remembrance of recently deceased members of both the 34th Infantry Division Association, as well as any losses in our present and recently deployed forces.

Our last formal gathering of this reunion will be the **Banquet**, with cash bar and **Dinner** at 6:30. Following the presentation of colors, invocation, and recognition of our special guests, we will feast on a **Buffet Dinner**. As we start dessert and coffee we turn our attention to greet our new officers, present our keynote speaker, **MG Rick Nash**, and then relax, sing, and dance to the music provided for the evening.

Sunday morning, Sept 12th, we will say once again our **farewells**. No events are scheduled. We wish everyone a safe trip home and hope to meet everyone again next year.

34th Division Association 2010 Program

Thursday, 9 September

1:00 P.M. Registration, Missouri Room, Holiday Inn
Hospitality Room Opens, Illinois Room

Friday, 10 September

8:00 A.M. Registration Room Continued, Missouri Room,
Hospitality Room Opens, Illinois Room
Holiday Inn (Donations Welcomed)

9:00 A.M. Tour of Iowa Veterans Cemetery, Bus Departs at
Front Door of Hotel

12:00 P.M. Return to Hotel for Lunch (Individual Pay)

1:30 P.M. Tour of U.S. Army National Maintenance Training
Center, Camp Dodge

5:00 P.M. Social (Open Bar)

6:00 P.M. Evening Buffet Dinner, Salon C, Holliday Inn
After Dinner Entertainment until 10:30 P.M.

Saturday, 11 September

7:30 A.M. Presidents Breakfast, Bennigans Meeting Room
(By Name Invite Only)

8:00 A.M. Hospitality Room Opens, Illinois Room

9:30 A.M. 34th Inf Div Assn Business Meeting, Salon C
Concurrent Spouse Activity (Easy Greeting
Card Making) Hospitality Room, 9:30-11:30

11:00 A.M. WWII Historical Things to Remember Lecture
President Pat Skelly

12:00A.M. Personal Lunch Time (Individual Pay)

1:00 P.M. Tour of Gold Star Military Museum and 34th
Infantry Division Memorial at Camp Dodge,
Bus Departs at Front Door of Hotel

3:00 P.M. Ice Cream Social at Gold Star Museum

5:00 P.M. Social (Open Bar)

6:00 P.M. 34th Inf Div Assn Memorial Service, Salon C
34th Inf Div Assn Reunion Banquet, Salon C
Guest Speaker (MG Rick Nash)
Red Bull Raffle Prize Drawing
After Dinner Entertainment with Dance
Music - (TBA) until 10 P.M.

Sunday, 12 September

No Activities – Personal Travel – Thank You

8:00 A.M. Association Officers Coffee, Missouri Room

Tri-State Chapter Reunion

The Tri-State Chapter will conduct their annual reunion at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa at 400 Granite Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446 during the dates of 12-16 July. For more information concerning the reunion please contact Steve Tennant at phone # 301-983-0848

email [sstennant@comcast.net](mailto:ss Tennant@comcast.net)

Address is: Steve Tennant, 10600 Rivers Bend Lane, Potomac, MD 20854. The deadline date for reservations is June 12, 2010 and require a \$100 deposit with reservation. The reunion will include a guided tour of FDR's home in Hyde Park, New York. The annual dues of the Tri-State Chapter, 34th Infantry Division Association are \$10.

We are happy to post this note for the Tri-State Chapter.

Note from the Association President

The current Spring 2010 issue of the 34th Infantry Division Association Newsletter will again be mailed to all current 34th Infantry Division Association National Association members as well as those Tri State Association members who are not current National Association members. We invite all Tri State members, who are not current National Members, who wish to continue to receive this newsletter, to complete the 34th Infantry Division National membership form at enclose.

We also ask all members to send their stories and questions to the National Office at Camp Dodge for publication in our coming newsletters. Sixty-five years after WWII we still thank all our veterans for their service.

Captain Albert J. Hoffman – Most Decorated WWII Chaplain

Chaplain Capt. Albert J. Hoffman, who was assigned to the 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, was recognized as the most highly decorated Chaplain of World War II service. Chaplain Hoffman, from Dubuque, Iowa, is remembered as one of the best liked men in the 133rd Infantry Regiment. In addition to his knowledge of the Catholic priesthood, Chaplain Hoffman became an expert at removing mines and was knowledgeable of U.S. and enemy weapons. He spoke a number of languages to include German, French and Spanish. He had studied in Italy and Germany prior to the war.

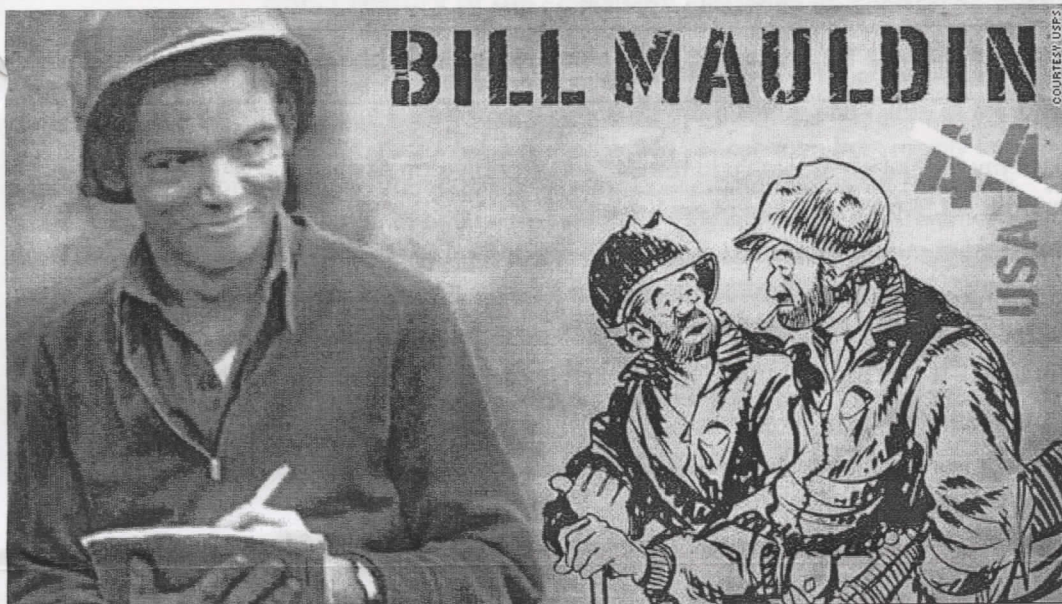
Father Hoffman made himself available many times to interpret when working with local people, partisans and enemy prisoners. He would assist a wounded German soldier just as he would an American soldier on the battlefield. He was a man who knew when a joke was needed to keep the men going. One night in North Africa, after a long march, one of the men was too tired to dig himself a foxhole and just laid on the ground to sleep. Chaplain Hoffman came upon him and stuck his rifle upright in the ground with the bayonet and put the soldiers steel pot on the weapon. The next morning everyone was teasing the man that they thought he was dead, and marked his body for the burial graves registration detail.

Many times during combat Chaplain Hoffman would lead the medical and stretcher teams to recover wounded men on the battlefield, and sometimes, operate behind enemy lines and under heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire.

Chaplain Capt Hoffman himself was eventually wounded by a mine while he was recovering wounded U.S. and Germany soldiers on the battle field near Santa Maria Olivetto. When a first aid crew came to recover Chaplain Hoffman, who had lost his leg to the mine, they too became casualties. He forbid anyone else to come to his rescue until the field was cleared. After an engineer mine sweeping crew cleared the area he was rescued and taken to the first aid station and then evacuated to England on to the U.S. Father Hoffman felt lucky that he only lost his leg and received other shrapnel wounds in the other leg. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African Middle Eastern Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (w/ 5 bars).

Chaplain Hoffmann continued to serve his beloved soldiers throughout the remainder of the war as Catholic Chaplain in the V.A Hospitals in Wisconsin and Illinois. After the war was over, Father Hoffmann returned to his vocation of the priesthood in the Diocese of Dubuque, and later as an instructor and Dean at Loras College in Dubuque.

Father Hoffmann died on April 25, 1983. He will always be remembered as a practical thinking realist, and a devout Christian man, who well understood the nature of man and the combat soldier. A quote from Father Hoffmann concerning religion was, "Generally speaking, religion, after all, is not something in a church; it is something in a man. With some people, religion is a social mask which they wear because it is expected of them by the community. In warfare this mask is dropped. You may pick up a personal religion, and you may not. If you had one beforehand, it will become even more personal to you. The soldiers who pray do so without shame. You often hear them praying out loud. But people are dead wrong who think that war takes a lot of men and makes them holy. Some of the soldiers who generate fervor in the heat of combat are going to lose it when the heat is off. You might sum it up by saying that war doesn't harm religion, but it doesn't help it either. Religious heroics aren't present, even when death is only a few hours away, after the prayers or Psalms are concluded, the man says, 'Thanks, Chaplain, or thanks Father,' rarely anything else. People don't say heroic things when they are dying, it's just a matter of duty, hard and painful both for the dying man and for the Chaplain. It's a weight on you all the time."



THE GRUNT'S HERO

New U.S. Postal
Service
Bill Mauldin
Postage
Stamp

The Bill Mauldin stamp honors U.S. Army Grunts' heroes. The United States Postal Service deserves a standing ovation for coming out with a new postage stamp this month: The Bill Mauldin postage stamp.

Mauldin died at age 81, in early 2003, as a resident of a California nursing home with his health and spirits in rapid decline. He could take great comfort in the fact that his work meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home. He was a kid cartoonist for the Stars and Stripes military newspaper who's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbled infantrymen Willie and Joe, were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.

Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs were their laughs, his heartaches were their heartaches. He was one of them and they loved him. He never held back and sometimes his superior officers tried to tone him down.

In one memorable incident, he enraged Gen. George S. Patton and was informed through the chain of command that his cartoons should stop lampooning the high-ranking officers. The soldiers heard about the pressure and wondered Sgt. Bill Mauldin would survive standing up to Gen. Patton? As it turned out, Mauldin had an ardent fan: Five-star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Ike put out the word: Mauldin draws what Mauldin wants. Mauldin won. Patton lost.

Sgt. Bill Mauldin was a 23 year old, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his work. He was featured on the cover of Time magazine. His book "Up Front" was the No. 1 best-seller in the United States. After the war, when he returned to civilian life at the Chicago Sun-Times, he grew older, but never lost that boyish Mauldin grin or his excitement about doing his job throughout the 1960's and 1970's.

He had won a second Pulitzer Prize, and was nominated for a third, for what may be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of the craft: his deadline rendering, on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, of the statue at the Lincoln Memorial slumped in grief, its head cradled in its hands. But he never acted as if he was better than the people he met. He was still Mauldin the enlisted man.

One veterans explained, upon Mauldin's death, "You would have to be part of a combat infantry unit to appreciate what moments of relief Bill gave us. You had to be reading a soaking wet Stars and Stripes in a water-filled foxhole and then see one of his cartoons."

One of his most famous cartoons shows Willie and Joe as 34th Infantry Division soldiers who had been on the front lines so long they had grown to be old men with white beards and crooked backs.

Mauldin is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was the kid cartoonist who made it onto a first-class postage stamp. It's an honor that most generals and admirals never receive. What Mauldin would have loved most, is the sight of the two guys who are keeping him company on that stamp. There's Willie. There's Joe. And there, to the side, drawing them and smiling that shy, quietly observant smile, is Mauldin himself. With his buddies, right where he belongs. With them forever.....

SUBJECT: 34th Infantry Division National Membership Application

NOTE: If your address Label shows a (L), (W), or (O) you do not owe dues for the Current Year

(Check One Box)

() Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Annual Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. Annual membership period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year.

(Open to past and present members of units assigned to the 34th Inf Div

or soldiers who have been members of the National Guard for six years or longer.)

() Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Associate Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. (Annual Fee) (Period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year). (Individuals who do not meet membership requirements, ie: Spouses & Friends)

() Enclosed is \$_____ for my LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the 34th Infantry Division Association. (See Fee Schedule Below) {No Further Annual Fee}.

To Age 60 \$100.00 At age 62 \$80.00 At age 64 \$60.00

At age 61 \$90.00 At age 63 \$70.00 At age 65 & older \$50.00

() Enclosed is \$_____ for my donation to the 34th Inf Div Memorial Fund.

(Maintain all monuments and annual flowers for the Cemeteries in North Africa, Italy & U.S.)

Name _____ Street _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number _____

AGE _____ Military Unit/ Organization _____ Signature: _____

.... S. Don Singlestad Continued from Page 1: ...

By the end of the war T/Sgt Singlestad had been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African Middle Eastern Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (w/ 6 bars), Italian Military Medal of Valor and the Italian War Merit Cross which is equal to the U.S. MOH. Like so many of his contemporaries who served in WWII, he is a true American Hero!

The book describes how he was sent home at the end of the war, in Nov 1945, he discharged from the service and details how he suffered from what we would describe today as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). After some treatment and a year away in the wilds of Montana, he recovered enough to continue his civilian life with his wife Flo.

Don opened a restaurant in Litchfield, MN and later operated other businesses in Minnesota until retirement. Today Don lives in Park Rapids, Minnesota and enjoys his family which include his daughter Debbie and her husband Mike Sharkey and grandchildren Daniel and Holly.

Copies of the book are available from S. Don Singlestad, PO Box 643, Park Rapids, MN 56470 Phone # 218-732-7360. The cost of the book is \$25 which includes shipping. Send him a check and he will send you a book. Thank You Don.

ELLEN ANKRUM PASSES

Ellen Ankrum, spouse of Lt Col (Ret) Homer Ankrum of Stratford, died Monday, September 21, 2009 at the Israel Family Hospice House at Ames. A private service was held in her memory in Stratford. Ellen had served as an officer in the 34th Division Association.

Ellen married Homer R. Ankrum in 1971. After Homer retired from the active Army they resided in Lake Bluff, IL and later Dora, FL. Ellen assisted her husband with research and typing of his manuscript, "Dog Faces Who Smiled Through Tears." This document is one of the main history reference books on the 34th Division covering WWII.

Ellen Hanson was born September 20, 1922 in Viksjoeffors, Halsingland, Sweden. She immigrated to the United States with her parents in July of 1927 to Stratford and graduated from Stratford high school in 1940. She worked in Chicago, IL and attended Amundsen Junior College and Community State College in Detroit, MI before returning to Chicago in 1946.

Mr. Ankrum died April 16, 2003. She was active in the 34th "Red Bull" Division Association at Camp Dodge.

Short History of the "Red Bull" 34th Infantry Division during WWII

The 34th Division was a National Guard Division from the mid-northwest states of Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. These National Guard troops made up the nucleus and cadre of the division that was mobilized on 10 Feb 1941 and supplemented by volunteers and selective service men from mainly the Northern Mid-West.

The early spring of 1941 found the 34th Division at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. The table of organization at the time called for an army division to be square and consisted of four infantry regiments. The Division had two brigades, each a complete self contained fighting unit supported by field artillery, engineers, quartermaster, signal corps, medics, anti-tank units, and reconnaissance. In today's military it's called "Task Organizing".

The four infantry regiments were the 133rd and the 168th from Iowa, the 135th from Minnesota, and the 164th from North Dakota. The 133rd and the 168th made up the 67th brigade. The 135th and the 164th made up the 68th brigade. Not too long after the division was mobilized, the Army changed to a "triangular" concept with three, not four regiments. Consequently the 164th was transferred to the Americal Division. Division support elements including the 125th, 151st, 175th and 185th Field Artillery, the 109th Engineers, the 109th Quartermaster, 34th Signal Corps, Medics, and 34th Recon Company.

The U.S. Army Quartermaster was unable to supply these newly mobilized divisions adequately. At first, the uniforms were leftovers from World War I. Some of the crew served weapons were wooden training dummies and all the soldiers were issued 1903A3 Springfield rifles. The men wore WWI helmets, and carried the belts, WWI entrenching tools, packs, canteens and mess kits. The only article of clothing the soldiers liked was the campaign hat that was thought to look pretty sharp cocked rakishly forward atop close-cropped hair.

On December 7th, 1941, as President Roosevelt stated, "The day of infamy" arrived after the U.S. Fleet at Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. The very next day found four battalions of the 34th Division on trucks headed for Galveston, Texas to guard installations along the coast. Immediately after Christmas, the 34th Div was aboard trains headed for Fort Dix, New Jersey. Here the division was replenished with additional soldiers to bring it up to combat strength with men from all parts of the U.S. Only a short while was spent at Fort Dix. The 34th Division was selected over all standing regular Army divisions to go overseas on the Atlantic side as the first American troops to set foot on European soil. First committed to combat; the 34th Division compiled an incredible record of over 500 days of front line combat. The time the 34th spent in combat was the most of any US Division that fought in the European Theater. While compiling this monumental achievement, both the Division Commanders during this time, General Ryder and General Bolte were very conservative about awarding medals and decorations to the personnel in their command. Consequently, the 34th was not known as the most decorated outfit to come out of World War II but was one of the most distinguished U.S. Army Divisions with a long proud record.

The official "Red Bull" insignia was selected from a design submitted by Pfc. Marvin Cone, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1918, during WWI, while he was serving with the division at Camp Cody, New Mexico.

The official slogan for the 34th Infantry Division is: *Attack! Attack! Attack!* The 34th Division received its nickname in North Africa and Italy (1943-1945) from enemy German captives who referred to it as the thundering "Red Bulls".

Those who served the Red Bull proudly in WW II included the gallant Nisei: Americans of Japanese origin who formed the 100th Battalion and later the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 100th Bn rounded out the 133rd Inf Regt while they were short their 2nd battalion which was on security duty for the Army HQ's. From the invasion of Italy to Cassino the men of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 133rd Inf Regt, fought side by side with the Nisei, 100th Bn, a Japanese-American Organization from California and Hawaii.

World War II Battle Credits were awarded to the 34th Infantry Division for action in: Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Northern Apennines and Po Valley. The division made landings in Algiers-North Africa, Naples, and Anzio, Italy.

The 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment received the Distinguished Unit Citation for action on Mount Pantano, 29 Nov 43 to 3 Dec 43. A National Guard Heritage Print depicts the close combat of the 168th Inf with German troops.

The 151st FA Bn fired 10,504 rounds during the battle for Salerno alone. This compared to 7,904 rounds expended during the entire African Campaign. The 135th Infantry Regiment established a command post in Rome at 1:30 a.m. on 5 Jun 44 and laid claim to being the first Infantry Regiment in Rome.

In WW II soldiers of the 34th Div. and 100th, 442nd RCT were awarded: 20 Medals of Honor, 98 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1,052 Silver Stars, 116 Legions of Merit, 1,713 Bronze Stars and 15,000 Purple Hearts. Total Battle Casualties were 21,362, with 3,737 Killed in Action, 14,165 Wounded in Action, and 3,460 Missing in Action.

The 34th was inactivated, at the end of World War II, on 3 Nov 1945, credited with 569 days of actual combat, more than any other U.S. Army Division in the European Theater during WWII. One or more units of the 34th Division accumulated 611 Days of Combat. We honor the men of the 34th Division for their long and faithful service.

CELEBRATING 63 YEARS
34TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

2010 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE SIGN ME UP

THURSDAY SEPT 9 THRU SUNDAY SEPT 12, 2010

NAME

SPOUSE/GUEST(S)

HOME ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

HOME PHONE

()

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT

E-MAIL

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS UPON ARRIVAL

YEARS IN ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION FEES (THUR – SUN) NUMBER

NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ X \$100.00 = TOTAL: _____

SPECIAL SATURDAY ATTENDANCE ONLY

NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ X \$30.00 = TOTAL _____

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO:

DES MOINES CHAPTER

34TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

7105 N.W. 70TH AVE, BLDG A-9

JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131-2416

REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15TH 2010

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE INTO MOTEL NOT LATER THEN AUGUST 15TH 2010.

TELEPHONE: 515-278-4755 OR www.HolidayInn.com/DesMoinesIA