

34th Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Association WEB Page:
www.34ida.org

Winter 2022 Issue -
The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is
published three times a year.



2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division Change of Command

The Change of command for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, was held on the October 2021 Drill, at Boone, IA.

Col. Derek Adams passed the 2nd IBCT Colors to incoming brigade commander, Col. Simon Schaefer. BG Steve Osborn conducted the Change of Command on October 24, 2021.

Thank you Col. Adams for your leadership and dedication to the 2/34th IBCT. COL Derek Adams returned this past fall with the HHC, 2/34 IBCT from the 2021 Kosovo Deployment. Welcome back to the Brigade Col. Schaefer!



First Iowa Female Enlisted 11B Infantry Soldier

Cp Dodge, IA – This past September, Pfc. Taylor Patterson, with Co C, 1-168th Infantry returned from, the grueling 22-week Infantry Basic Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and became the first female enlisted infantry Soldier in the Iowa National Guard. She joined in June 2020.

She says her support system at home and her drill sergeants during infantry school pushed her to succeed. “There obviously was a lot of guys who didn’t think the females were able to do that, but I am like, I am proving it to you,” said Pfc. Patterson.

An infantry Soldier holds a significant role in the U.S. Army. These men and women learn a broad array of skills, from squad tactics to close-quarter combat training to engage with the enemy during warfare. In January 2016, the U.S. Army opened combat arms positions to women.

An Infantry Soldier is trained in the use of small arms, anti-tank, and other weapons systems. You will be responsible for capturing, destroying, and repelling enemy ground forces during missions. Pfc. Patterson is an Ankeny resident and is currently studying animal science at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.



The photo shows BG Steve Osborn DAG Iowa, presenting an award to COL Derek Adams at the Boone.



COL Derek Adams is shown with his staff and Command assembled for the Change of Command of the 2nd IBCT at the Boone Armory.



Greetings 34th Inf Div Assn. Members,

I send all of you a New Year's greeting. We have much to be thankful for in the past year, especially for the safe return of our most recently deployed units and the soon to happen return of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, from Central Command duty in the Mid-East. "Welcome Home Soldiers!"

I draw your attention to the article on page 4, about the five Jensen brothers, who I personally served with, in the 151st Field Artillery. This kind of service and patriotism is what makes the National Guard what it is, Citizen Soldiers, serving with friends and neighbors, and protecting our nation in Peace and War. Yes, "We are the Guard"

The article on page 6, talks about our WW II, 168th Infantry, veteran, Don Halverson, who recently visited the battlefields and cemeteries in Italy, with our friend, Andy Biggio. Andy was our banquet speaker at the 2020, Cp Ripley, 34th Inf Div Assn. Reunion.

Lastly, I want to speak to you about Military Suicide Prevention. Active-duty, National Guard and Reserve suicide deaths reached a record high in 2021. The data shows, the suicide rate among military veterans was about 30.5 per 100,000, or about 20 veterans per day. The NG Suicide Rate is actually higher than the AC Service. We as individuals have an obligation we watch our buddies, both serving and retired, for signs of despair or trouble. Stay in contact with friends, emails, text, and invite them to military events. If you or someone you know needs help, call the Veterans Crisis Hotline: 800-273-8255.

ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!

Wayne Hayes, Col (Ret)

President, 34th ID Association

wayneh1693@gmail.com

34th Infantry Division Final Roll Call

Fall 2021

Stephen Vinson, 34th Infantry Division
Richard W. Wheeler, 151FA, 34th Inf Div
James E. Burns, 168th Inf, Regt 34th Inf Div
Dennis Shannon, 34th Infantry Division
John Paul JP Cook, 2-133rd Inf 34th Inf Div
Robert H. Savidge, B, 133rd Inf Regt, 34th ID
Terry E. Muilenburg, HHC 1-168th 34th ID
Robert Pache, 109th Med Regt, 34th Inf Div
Hans H. Goepfinger, 34th Inf Div
Dr. Coolidge Wakai, Co B 100 Inf Bn 34th ID
CHP Col John W. Hemann, 133rd Inf, 34th ID
Robert L. Thomas, 34th Infantry Division
Arnold D. Lovelace Co E 133rd Inf 34th ID

Winter 2022

Mark Corey, Co A, 133rd Inf Bn, 34th Inf Div
Richard E. "Rich" Smith, 2-133rd Inf Bn 34 ID
SGT Mario Gonzalez, HHC 1-168 Inf 34th ID
Alex David Angelo Grafft, 334th BSB, 34th ID
Ronald R. Struble, 133rd Inf, 34th Inf Div
Leonard W. Fattic, WWII, 34th Inf Div
Gary S. Christen, 1-194th FA, 34th Inf Div
Eugene W. Young, 34th Inf Div
Charles Ted Hora, HHC 34 Inf Bde Bde
James Carl Trask, Aviation Bn, 34th Inf Div
Dan Patton, 194th Cav & 1-113th Cav Sqdns

Final Roll Call Prayer

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

National Office-34th Infantry Division Association

Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,
7105 NW 70TH Ave, Johnston, IA 50131

Association Website <http://www.34IDA.org>

75th Reunion.....30 Sep - 1 Oct 2021 Camp Ripley, MN

Secretary: COL (Ret) Russell Bierl, bierlhome@msn.com

Treasurer: Mark Newhall 515-210-1812, mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

Facebook Manager: Herman Poggensee, pogjack@gmail.com

Website Manager, Historian: MSG (Ret) Daniel Ewer,
justcallmesarge@gmail.com

Facebook 34th Inf Div Assn: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>

Internet 34th Inf Div Assn: <http://www.34IDA.org>

Also, follow Red Bulls at

1st ABCT: <http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls>

2nd IBCT: <http://www.facebook.com/iowaRedBulls> <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

<http://www.twitter.com/iowaRedBulls> <http://www.flickr.com/iowaRedBulls>



Minnesota National Guard Honored

The Minnesota Vikings celebrated their annual Salute to Service game in November 2021, by highlighting military families and Minnesota National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have recently returned home from deployments.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, Director of the Army National Guard and former adjutant general of the MN National Guard, was honored as the hometown hero and received a huge ovation from the crowd. He is shown with his spouse and daughter. He has served as Commander of the 34th Infantry Division.

The Honored Units / organizations:
 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade
 2nd Battalion 135th Infantry Regiment
 34th Military Police Company Stillwater MN
 148th Fighter Wing | 133rd Airlift Wing

LTC Charles Rankin Assumes Command of 1st ABCT

Lt. Col. Charles ‘Chip’ Rankin assumed command of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th ID, from COL Timothy Kemp, on Dec 3rd, in a ceremony at the Rosemount, MN Community and Training Center. LTC Rankin comes to the 1st ABCT following a successful battalion command with 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment based in Mankato, MN.

Rankin was commissioned as an infantry officer in the MN National Guard in 1998. He deployed to Iraq in 2006-2007, Afghanistan in 2011-2012, and the Horn of Africa in 2020-2021. In his civilian career, he is the Superintendent of Minnewaska Area Schools. Col.

Timothy Kemp has assumed duties as the Chief of Staff for the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. COL Kemp stated, “I feel blessed and honored to have led this brigade. It’s been the capstone of my career thus far.” He said, “I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of these Red Bull Soldiers and am grateful for their service while I had the honor of being their commander.” More than 5,200 Soldiers make up the brigade. Congratulations Tim!

FT. Snelling Cemetery “Red Bull” Monument

Tom Hauser November 23, 2021

Many Minnesotans are familiar with the "Red Bulls" 34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard because it is one of the nation's most frequently- deployed and highly-decorated military units. However, it's one of the few military units in Minnesota that doesn't have its own memorial at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



"We don't know why, but we're going to change that," 34th Infantry Division veteran Eric Kerska told TV 5 NEWS in an interview at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. "The 34th Division needs a memorial here at the Ft. Snelling Cemetery."

There are dozens of memorials honoring military units at the cemetery but not one for the 34th Infantry Division, even though it was founded in 1917, in World War I and served in World War II and nearly every major conflict since then. Their service includes multiple deployments in Iraq & Afghanistan.

Fort Snelling National Cemetery told the 34th ID Veterans it is up to each military unit to raise the money and create their own memorial.

Kerska served three tours of duty in Iraq, two of them with the Red Bulls. For his full-time job, he serves as Rochester's fire chief but he's working part-time with other veterans of the 34th to raise money for a memorial. They' started a GoFundMe page and are contacting veterans' groups to raise at least \$10,000 for the memorial. Any additional monies will go to the 34th Inf Div Assn. Memorial Fund.



44 Plus Years for CW5 Stephen Swisher



JOHNSTON, IA: When Chief Warrant Officer 5 Stephen Swisher enlisted in HHC, 1-168th Infantry on 2 Dec 1976, he never would have imagined that he would serve continually for almost 45 years, an Iowa National Guard record. His actual days of service was 44 years, seven months and 18 days. His fellow guardsmen wish him well.

Swisher started in HHC, 1-168th, Council Bluffs as a vehicle mechanic, when he was just 17. "I was actually not old enough to enlist and I had to get my mom to go down to the judge and sign a piece of paper for me to leave to go to boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri," Swisher said.

Since then, he has worked his way up the chain making sure Iowa guard troops have the best working vehicles as they go off to battle. One of those missions was in Iraq. He also served in the 133rd Infantry, during "The Long Deployment." That's where Swisher learned just how well trained and equipped the Iowa National Guard is. "I was very obvious that in some instances the National Guard is more professional and on board with their mission than some of the active duty soldiers," Swisher said.

Swisher said he's proud of his service, and his leaders are proud of him. But he lets us in on a secret. Breaking a National Guard record was not his original plan. "In Basic Training, I told myself I can't wait for my six years to be up I am getting out of here, 44 years later here I stand,"

Enlisted in HHC, 1-168th Inf Bn, 2 Dec 1976,
Retired 29 Jul 2021 Served in the 168 IN Bn, 133rd
IN Bn, 113 Cav Sqdn, and Iowa Ordnance Training
Center. 28 years as a NCO, & 16 WO Since 2004.



Minnesota 1-151 FA Bn Brothers Five Brothers Served Together

Many families have traditions of military service. For one Minnesota family, that tradition of service began in 1978 when the first of five brothers enlisted into the Minnesota National Guard. More than 43 years later, two of the five brothers continue to serve. During the Minnesota Vikings Salute to Service game earlier this week, they recognized all five of the Jensen brothers.

Col.(Ret) Bruce Jensen enlisted Sep 1978, retired in Dec 2013 with 35 years of service.

Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Brad Jensen enlisted Aug 1980, retired in May 2018 with 37 years of service.

Maj. (Retired) Brian Jensen enlisted in January 1981 and retired in June of 2011 with 30 years.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brent Jensen enlisted in the MN National Guard in April of 1985; he is still currently serving after more than 36 years.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kevin Jensen enlisted into the MN National Guard in October 1987; he is still currently serving after more than 34 years.

Fun fact: in Oct of 1987, all five brothers served as part of the Service Battery 1-151 Field Artillery. Thank you to the Jensens for your service and your dedication as a military family.



PFC Leonard Fattic, WWII Soldier & Ex POW Passes

One of our longest living comrades, 98-year-old WWII Veteran, Leonard Fattic, from Middletown, IN, died this past November of natural causes. He was drafted into the Army in Oct 1941 and was sent to Camp Claiborne, LA, where he was assigned to the 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division.

He was sent overseas with the Division to Northern Ireland for training, and from there to North Africa. The 34th Infantry Division had not yet formed up in Tunisia, so in order to block the advancing German forces led by Generals von Arnim and Rommel, the 168th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 1st Armor Division, along with their support elements of Medical, Signal and Engineer personnel. The Regiment spent a month moving about the Tunisia desert with the 1st Armored Division attempting to find a place to block the advance and fix the German forces.

The Germans showed up where they were not expected and most of two battalions of the 168th Infantry, along with an Anti Tank unit and the Regimental Headquarters, to include the Regimental Band, found themselves surrounded.

The 1st U.S. Armor Division engaged the German 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions, led by Generals von Arnim and Erwin Rommel with tanks that were armed with 88mm guns against the 37mm guns of American armor, and they were decimated, losing all their obsolete tanks but two.

PFC Fattic said, “The Germans just surrounded us, and we couldn’t get out. Early on, of course, there was fear, but once they didn’t line us up and shoot us, we figured we were there to the end of the war.” “I weighed 225 pounds when we were captured and in six weeks I was down to 160.” The 168th Regt lost over 1,200 soldiers at Kasserine Pass

The first several days, their captors offered no food or water, just words. “For you today, the war is over,” Fattic recalled being told. “How true.” The prisoners were marched and trucked to Tunis, and from there, they prisoners were flown to Sicily and eventually and rode in box cars to Germany via Italy. He spent 2 ½ years as a POW.

As the war neared an end, PFC Fattic said, they could sense the disruptions in the German military system. It was April 26, 1945, at a place called

Bitterfield on the Elbe River that he regained his freedom.

“I was in a group that liberated ourselves,” Fattic said. “The German guards just left to give themselves up to the US Army. They didn’t want to be Russian prisoners.”

Eventually PFC Fattic was sent to Camp Lucky Strike in France, where he and other American POWs boarded a Liberty ship for the six-day ocean crossing to Norfolk, Va. Fattic said, “Arriving back home in the USA for his discharge from the Army was the most wonderful joy the has ever experienced.”



34th Inf Div Assn. Officers & Trustees

President	Wayne Hayes
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2nd VP	To Be Appointed - MN
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Italian 133rd "Iron Man" Chapter News



On Sunday 5 September, at the park of remembrance of Legri near Calenzano (Florence), the ceremony in memory of the fallen belonging to the 34th Infantry Division was held in the presence of the local authorities. The Deputy Mayor, Alberto Giusti, recalling the liberation of Calenzano placed the accent on the sacrifice of the allied troops during the Italian campaign. on behalf of the Italian Chapter of the 34th ID Association, Alessandro Querci, recalled the stages of the journey made by the Red Bull men starting from the African front and up to the end of the war. In particular, the fallen, the wounded and the fighting days of the division were remembered. He then made a summary of the operations carried out by the division in the area

of Calenzano and Mugello during the phases of approach to the Gothic Line, operations during which there were numerous losses. After the religious ceremony in suffrage of the fallen, a wreath of flowers was laid at the memorial stone in honor of the 34th ID placed in the park of Remembrance. An Ironman Battalion Group historical uniformed Picket did the honors. The Deputy Mayor, Alberto Giusti, at the end of the Ceremony stayed with the members of the Italian Chapter, informing them that the Municipality of Calenzano has expressed itself in favor of the concession of some rooms located in the former municipal police headquarters so that they can be used for the construction of a seat for the historical group and a small museum dedicated to the 34th Infantry Division.



WWII Soldiers Visit Italy Battlefields and



Don Halverson, shown with Andy Biggio, whose uncle was killed in Italy while serving with the 34th Infantry Division, visited the WWII Florence American Cemetery. They are standing by the grave of, PVT Donald N. Hansen, a buddy of Halverson, in Co A 168th Inf Regt.

During their time in Italy, WWII Veterans Rocco Telese, of the 85th Division, and Don Halverson, visited Florence American Cemetery, where a number of their combat buddies are laid to rest. The two veterans ended their visit by assisting the staff of the Florence American Cemetery, in lowering and folding of the American flag, at the end of the day. The 168th Inf Regt had 1,253 men Killed in Action during the War.

Don Halverson, age 98, a resident of Brooklyn Center, MN, re-visits Anzio Beach in Nov 2021, for the first time since he landed there with the



168th Infantry Regiment in WWII. It has been seventy-seven years since he was last in Italy. He served with Co. A, 168th Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, and survived Monte Casino, Anzio, Rome and North Italy battles. Thank you for your Service Don!

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (2) you do not owe dues for the Current Year

- () 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 / organizations 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, Other Services)
- () 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 60 & older \$50.00
- () Enclosed is \$ _____ for my donation to the 34th Infantry Division 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: _____

Note: The purpose of the 34th Infantry Division Association is to preserve the history of the 34th Divisional units & attached organizations of soldiers that have served their nation since 1917. The National Association schedules an annual meeting each Fall.

The National Secretary is COL (Ret) Russ Bierl. His E-Mail address is bierlhome@msn.com The National Association Website is <http://www.34IDA.org>
 Membership Treasurer: Mark Newhall 515-210-1812 Email: mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

A newsletter is sent to current members three times a year by U.S. mail. All newsletter are shown on the Association Website. The 34th Infantry Division Association maintains files and a desk at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

Museum Store - 34th Inf Div Assn Price List – Oct 2021

34 th Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 25.00	34 th Red Bull Div Insignia Pins (Lapel Pin)	\$5.00
34 th Red Bull T-Shirt Size _____	\$15.00	Red Bull Patch (Black & Red)	\$5.00
		34 th Div Red Bull Neck Tie	\$15.00
34 th Red Bull Window Decal	\$2.00	34 th Div Red Bull Flag (3X5')	\$65.00
34 th Red Bull Jacket Size _____	\$45.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$ 2.00
34 th Div "Camouflage" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$20.00	34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00

Special Price on Books: Roaring Bull, 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror \$10.00

*Add \$5.00 for shipping the first ITEM and \$2.00 per each added ITEM in the same shipment.

Sub Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Total \$ _____
 Name: _____

34th Infantry Division Association
7105 NW 70th Ave, Camp Dodge, Bldg 3692
Johnston, IA 50131

Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Call 515-210-1812 if you have a question.

WWII, The Battle of Kasserine (Faid) Pass, From a Bandsman Prospective

by Harold W. Au

Harold W. Au (May 16, 1919 - March 18, 2011), was born and raised on a dairy farm in Clinton, Iowa. Musically inclined, Harold joined his high school band. He was drafted on April 3, 1941, Harold was assigned to the 168th Regiment, 34th Infantry Division (Red Bulls). While training at Camp Claiborne, he woke up extremely ill one day and diagnosed as contracting Malaria. Harold was treated with a new experimental drug, Atabrine. The Japanese forced a quinine shortage during that time, so Atabrine was developed as a new experimental drug for malaria, first tested on a group of U.S. soldiers, Harold being one of them.

While at Camp Claiborne, Harold utilized his musical talents and auditioned for the 168th Regimental Band. He earned a seat in the band playing clarinet, his favorite instrument. Harold missed the majority of Infantry training at Camp Claiborne due to his bout with malaria, but much to the delight of his family, Harold (an only child), would deploy to Europe as a member of the regimental band, which would keep him away from the front lines, right? Fate would soon prove otherwise.

On January 15, 1942, Harold set sail (after moving by rail to Fort Dix, New Jersey) from Brooklyn Army Terminal, on the USS Chateau Thierry, along with 4,058 Red Bull soldiers (also sailing on the HMTS Strathaird). Codenamed *Operation Magnet*, this was the first deployment of U.S. combat soldiers to Europe after the U.S. officially entered World War II. Following a rocky journey across the Atlantic, where Harold and many of his fellow soldiers complained of the 'terrible British food,' the 34th Division landed in Belfast, Ireland in late January. They lived in an array of tents and Nissen huts scattered across the Irish countryside. As the 34th Division prepared for Operation Torch, Harold and the 168th Regimental Band were summoned to perform their band duties. On one occasion in Belfast, the band played for the BBC, which was broadcast in England and also back in the U.S. On June 25, 1942, band members were informed that a very special performance was coming and everyone must be on their 'A' game. The band lined up, and soon the King and Queen of England arrived. Harold and his fellow band members played for King George and Queen Elizabeth, standing just a few feet away. Harold felt this was a great honor!

After training in Scotland, the 168th Regiment boarded a ship in Liverpool and set sail in late October 1942, for the North African coast, as part of *Operation Torch*. Harold landed in Algiers, Algeria, with the 168th Regiment. In the first amphibious invasion of the war, the landings were very chaotic, resulting in many soldiers landing on the wrong beaches. Thankfully, Vichy French resistance was minimal, and on Nov 8, 1942, the Allies officially landed in North Africa. As the 168th reconsolidated in Algeria, plans were underway for rapid movement into Tunisia, where the green U.S. soldiers would face battle-hardened Germans.

As the 168th Division began their advance into Tunisia, the German 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions, led by General von Arnim and General Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, had planned a western thrust near the town of Sidi Bou Zid, approximately 10 miles west of Faid Pass along the interior plains of the Atlas Mountains. In preparation for a possible attack, the 168th Regiment were positioned along a series of mountain tops to the east of Sidi Bou Zid. Harold was initially positioned in an olive grove approximately two miles east of Sidi Bou Zid with Colonel Drake, Headquarters Company, and several other units. Other 168th Regiment soldiers were positioned on Djebels (Mountains) Lessouda, Ksaira, and Garet el Hadid to the east. The 168th Regiment was positioned along a 30-mile front, which would normally require more than one combat division to properly secure. Given no time to prepare a proper defensive position with mines and wire obstacles, the men were extremely vulnerable.

As the Red Bulls dealt with a massive sandstorm on February 14th, the Germans began their attack. Initially, the advancing Germans were camouflaged completely by the storm. As the storm cleared, the 168th soldiers realized that German Panzers (tanks) were pouring through the plains on all sides of their positions. Colonel Drake realized he could not effectively control the battle from his current position, so he moved his men forward, relocating to Djebel Garet el Hadid. Upon arrival, he organized defensive positions with his Headquarters, Band, a platoon of Engineers, Company E, a Heavy Weapons Platoon from Company D, and Cannon Company, 39th Infantry Regiment. Harold and 1,000 of his fellow soldiers were completely surrounded. They resisted with everything they had, but their weapons were no match for the powerful German Panzers. The Germans continued to pummel the three hills attempting to force the Red Bulls to surrender. The Germans even attempted to use captured U.S. vehicles to climb the mountain in an attempt to deceive the Americans.

The men valiantly fought the Germans for several days, keeping them at bay despite being completely surrounded. Wounded and dying men were scattered across the mountain. Eventually Colonel Drake pulled the surviving 168th soldiers together and developed a plan to escape in the middle of the night. They marked a route down the mountain with toilet paper, and followed each other in a column formation, moving as quietly as possible. At this point in the German attack, friendly lines had been pushed more than 20 miles to the west of Harold's position, so even if the men could evade the Germans, they would have to navigate minefields and more than 20 miles of densely-populated enemy territory to reach friendly lines. As the Red Bulls approached the German perimeter, a German yelled and in Harold's words, 'all hell broke loose.' The Germans began firing at the long line of men, and the Red Bulls scattered. Harold knew his only chance for survival was to follow his Infantry training,

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

So, he ran for five seconds, hit the dirt, than ran again. Under heavy fire, hundreds of Red Bulls were killed. Harold managed to maneuver his way through the German lines, escaping to the next mountain, along with approximately twenty other men.

Dawn landed upon the battle-weary Red Bulls, and within thirty minutes, a German patrol spotted the men and began firing at them. Harold and the Red Bulls did their best to return fire with the limited ammunition that remained. The Germans demanded surrender and said if the men did not surrender, they would all be killed. Harold and the men continued to hold back the Germans for most of the day. The senior NCO pulled the men together and asked if they would like to surrender and spend the next three years as a German P.O.W.'s or go down fighting. The men vowed to continue fighting. They decided upon a rally point on the next mountain and believed if they could hold the Germans off until dark, they could try an escape again. The men destroyed anything of possible value to the Germans. Harold destroyed a camera he had been carrying since he landed in Algeria. When nightfall came, the men snuck out one-at-a-time, moving as silently as possible. Only ten of the men arrived safely at the rally point on the next mountain. Of the ten, three were band members: Harold, Bobby Owens, and Wayne Graves.

The men each had one canteen of water and one candy bar, which was to be eaten only in an emergency. This small group of Red Bulls had no idea that American lines had been pushed nearly thirty miles to their west. Harold waited three days before eating his candy bar. After several days, starving and dehydrated, Wayne Graves decided he wanted to give up. The men begged him to continue on, but they were unable to change his mind, so they ended up leaving him in the desert and moving forward. Harold and the men continued moving west, hiding during the daytime and traveling at night. The Germans surrounded them at all times, but the men were able to evade the Germans by moving only at night. Three or four times during their adventure behind enemy lines, the Red Bulls were spotted by Germans and exchanged fire, shooting, running, and scattering to evade capture. Because they were such a small group, the Germans rarely pursued. After ten days, the men were dehydrated, famished, and unsure how far American lines had been pushed. They spotted an Arab camp in the distance, and although they didn't trust the Arabs, the men were so hungry and thirsty they decided to approach the camp.

The Arabs seemed happy to see them, asked if they were hungry, and killed a goat to prepare a feast for the starving Red Bulls. The Arabs began cooking the goat over a fire and seemed to treat the Americans really well. Harold noticed several of the Arabs leaving the tent and decided to take a look outside. Peeking his head out from the tent, Harold observed the Arabs leading a German patrol directly toward the tent. Harold immediately alerted the other men, and the Red Bulls, determined not to be captured, began shooting the remainder of their ammunition. A few of the men threw hand grenades at the Germans, wounded several of them. The Germans didn't anticipate an attack from the beleaguered men. After a short firefight, several of the Germans retreated and two surrendered. The Red Bulls secured the two Germans at gunpoint and forced them to continue traveling along with the rogue Americans behind German lines. After traveling through mountains most of the day, one of the senior NCO's stopped and said, 'this is far enough.'

He unholstered his Colt 1911 and placed it against the head of one of the German prisoners. The NCO ordered the Germans to take off their clothes and told Harold (about the same size as one of the Germans) to put the clothes on. Harold hated the idea of wearing a German uniform, but he followed orders and dressed himself in German Wehrmacht fatigues. From that point, Harold marched the prisoners more than ten miles through German territory until they eventually encountered a French patrol. A member of the French patrol was fluent in English, so the men explained their situation, and the patrol transported the grateful Red Bulls back to American lines, eventually returning to the 168th. Harold and his men returned to friendly lines on February 28th, surviving behind enemy lines for eleven days. The history books say that only LTC Gerald Line of Sioux City, IA, succeeded in returning safely to American lines. In fact, Harold and a small team of men also managed to evade the Germans and safely return to American lines, although it took them eleven days to find their way back.

Several weeks later Harold's parents received a telegram informing them that Harold had safely returned to friendly lines. One can only imagine the relief they felt. Several weeks earlier, they received a telegram reporting their only child, Harold, as missing in action. From that point the 168th Regimental Band was disbanded, as only a few members survived. A 34th Division band was assembled from the remaining band members, which Harold joined. Soon the 168th Regiment (and 34th Division) deployed to Italy, where they were involved in some of the most brutal combat of the war. During the attack on Monte Cassino, which basically decimated the division, Harold and the band members were called into duty as stretcher bearers, making the 6-8 hour climb into the hills surrounding Monte Cassino, under heavy German fire. Harold and his fellow band members carried the wounded on stretchers down the mountain to safety. Several of the band members were killed.

Eventually Harold was transferred to the 116th Army Band, and assigned to Marseilles and remained there for the remainder of the war. After 38 months of overseas duty, Harold finally returned home to his overjoyed parents. Harold traded his clarinet for an M1 rifle for much of the war, but his proudest moments are those entertaining his fellow Red Bulls as a member of the 168th Inf, 34th ID, and Army bands. **Submitted by Jeff Wells, U.S. Army, 2001-2009, Proud Grandson of a Red Bull & Proud Son of a Marine**

34th Red Bull Infantry Division



The Command Sergeant Major of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Whitehead, and MNNG Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Soper went to Fort Bliss, Texas this week to welcome the return of Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 194th Armor, who made up 'Task Force Bastard' on their recent tour to the Middle East.

Soldiers had the opportunities to share the stories of their accomplishments and receive a heartfelt 'Thank You' from their leaders.

Welcome back, Bastards, and thank you for your service!

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34th Infantry Division Association

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