

Thank you, E.D. Johnson.

**34th
Infantry Division
Association**



. . Program . .

Twelfth National Reunion
September 11, 12 and 13, 1959
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**12th National Reunion of the
34th Infantry Division Association
Sheraton-Montrose Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
September 11, 12, 13—1959**

The Cedar Rapids Chapter and Ladies Auxiliary
welcomes you to this Reunion.

Friday, September 11th

- 1:00 p. m.—Registration Mezzanine
Colored Movies of Past Reunions
- 6:00 p. m.—Liar's Club and Who Won the War? Iowa Room
Music by Leo Cortimiglia Combo

Saturday, September 12th

- 9:00 a. m.—Registration Mezzanine
- 9:30 a. m.—Ladies' Amasa Tour and Luncheon Corn Room
Bus will leave promptly.
Mrs. Isla Miner, Chairman
- 10:00 a. m.—Committee Activities Sheraton Room
- 12:30 p. m.—Officers' and Trustees' Luncheon Officers' Club
- 2:30 p. m.—Business Meeting Sheraton Room
Lawrence F. Sanneman, President
- 3:30 p. m.—Cocktail Hour Iowa Room
Music by Frank Ozmanski
- 6:30 p. m.—Reunion Banquet Ball Room
Toastmaster: Ford Roberts, WMT Radio and
TV Personality.
Featured Speaker: Dr. Alexander Lippisch
Guests of Honor: Governot and Mrs. Loveless,
Professor Marvin Cone
Entertainment: The Olivets.
- 9:30 p. m.—Reunion Ball Ball Room
Variety Club Orchestra

Sgt. C. Vernon Johnson NG20 718 576

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Sunday, September 13th

9:00 a. m.—Memorial Service (three blocks west of Memorial Plaza on the Island)

[Hotel] [Theatre] [Smolekoff's])

3rd Ave.—

[] [] [] (Plaza

Services by Chaplain Albert J. Hoffman

Tape by Norway, Iowa, Firing Squad

(In case of rain, Services in Ball Room)

In honor of the memory of our dead, it is each Red Bull's duty to attend.

10:00 a. m.—Business Meeting _____ Sheraton Room

Committee Reports

Election of National Officers

Selection of 1960 Reunion City



Program Tradition by Marshall Runnels.

"The proud tradition of the 34th Infantry Division must be carried on. It is the devout duty of each and every one of us to remain active in the Association. New Chapters should be formed and the membership increased in those already established. Urge your friends and prospective members to join. The potential is great."

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Memorial Page

Three years after the end of the war, a party of British Officers were walking over the mountains, studying the battle of Cassino as a military exercise under the direction of officers who had fought there. As they clambered over the rocks, incredulous that anything resembling organized warfare had been waged there, they came at one point upon a grim sight. Crouched against some rocks in the position in which an Infantryman would take guard with his rifle, they found a human skeleton. At its side were the rusted remains of a rifle and steel helmet, both identifiable as American. Our country was founded by men and women who were willing to fight for its freedom. It has remained free because, when the need arose, new generations were willing to fight and, if necessary, to die for what they loved. We that live give great Honor to those who died. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

AWARDS AND CITATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE 34th DIVISION

More than 15,000 Purple Hearts, Nine Congressional Medals of Honor, 98 Distinguished Service Crosses, 116 Legion of Merit medals, 1052 Silver Stars, 51 Soldiers Medals, 1713 Bronze Stars, 3 Presidential Citations, 7 British awards, 7 French awards, 5 Italian awards, one Distinguished Service Medal, one Distinguished Flying Cross, 34 Air Medals with 52 Oak Leaf Clusters, 525 Divisional Citations, six War Department Meritorious Service Unit Plaques and 15 Army Commendations of the unit.

Thirty-eight months of overseas duty, 500 days of actual Combat. Some members of the Division had more than 600 days of actual Combat. The Division was in contact with the enemy for 76 consecutive days.

The Memorial Service should be a duty for all to attend. It is the least one can do.

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As your national president, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to our 12th annual reunion. I am sure you will enjoy yourself and have a very memorable time and I hope to see you at our 13th annual reunion in 1960.

L. F. Sanneman
National President

WELCOME "PAESANOS"—

On behalf of the local chapter, we extend a most hearty welcome to our city and the 12th annual reunion. We have enjoyed spending many hours preparing this reunion and are hoping you will enjoy each and every moment spent with us.

Cedar Rapids Chapter
Dean J. Ernest
President



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EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY
OF THE THIRTY FOURTH
DIVISION OF WORLD WAR 2

From "The Story of the 34th Infantry Division"

MTUSA

THE 34th INFANTRY DIVISION

Formed from National Guard of Iowa, Minnesota,
North and South Dakota.

Inducted into Federal Service, February 10, 1941.

Basic training Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

Took part in great Louisiana maneuvers.

After Pearl Harbor, took security posts in various
Southern States.

Soon entrained for Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Reorganized from a Square to a Triangular Division.

January 15, 1942 to May 13, 1942—three waves to
Northern Ireland.

Began small unit training program overseas.

Fought the "Battle of Belfast".

First Ranger Battalion formed of Volunteers from
the 34th.

June 1942, 168th Regimental Combat Team formed
in Scotland.

First assigned mission, seize the Port of Algiers and
keep it open.

General Charles W. Ryder—Commanding "Eastern
Assault Force".

168th Infantry missed landing designation by 17
miles.

Heights overlooking Algiers under our control with-
in 12 hours.

3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry joined expedition at
almost the last moment.

135th surrendered to Senegalese and French after
using up all ammunition.

168th Infantry entered outskirts of city.

November 9, 1942 Algiers surrendered.

November 15, 1942 175th Field Artillery Bn left Al-
giers for Tunisia.

December 24th, 1942 2nd Bn 168th Infantry attached
to 12th Air Force at Tebessa.

Anti-tank Co. was sent to Biskra, a French desert out-
post.

January 11, 1943, 1st Bn 168th Infantry sent to Con-
stantine to guard duty.

January 29, 1943 rest of the 168th to Gafsa-Sbeitia
for operation under command of 1st Armored Div.

January 3, 1943 rest of the 34th landed at Oran and
assembled at Tlemcen.

3rd Bn 135th Infantry moved from Algiers to rejoin
Division.

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HISTORY OF 34th DIV. — Cont'd.

2nd Bn 133rd Infantry assigned to Allied Force Hdqtrs as Guard troops.

January 30, 1943 elements of Division moved to Maktar, Tunisia.

168th Infantry and 175th FA Bn all ready in "Indian Warfare" in Tunisia.

First week in February 1943, 168th moved to Sidi Bou Zid near Faid Pass.

133rd Infantry took position in sector south from El Ala to Fondouk Highway.

Germans broke through at Faid.

168th surrounded and half the Regiment killed or captured.

Because of break through at Kasestine Pass, Division fell back to new defense lines.

Enemy did not exploit his advantages and withdrew.

109th Engineers made a 35 mile road in three days and cleared mine fields.

Replacements from 3rd Infantry Division added.

The 84th Division was brought back together—battle trained, and willing to learn.

By the 4th of March reconnaissance completed the possibility of aggressive action.

Division ordered to area of Pichon—El Ala to make a demonstration move.

The flat lands were ideal for cross country movement of our armor.

Inexperience led to hard going. C Company of 133rd Inf was ambushed March 10, 1943 at heavy cost.

The German Air Force was a constant threat. Most movement was after dark.

March 25, 1943, the Division given the order for its first major attack of WW2.

Was to capture and hold Fondouk Gap and the surrounding heights.

By the 27th of March, the 135th Infantry, the 168th and the 109th Engineers reached the mountains.

The task proved impossible and the Division withdrew.

With British troops another try was made. 133rd Infantry and 135th involved.

The 132nd succeeded in clearing the first hill of the objective.

After attack by Armor the Germans withdrew to Kairouan and the 34th moved to Maktar on the 15th of April for training.

Hill 609 began to show some positive results. The bravery was outstanding.

After reaching the top, great havoc was created for the fleeing Germans.

The Division found itself. General Omar Bradley reported "A strong enemy was repulsed. Fighting all day was intense and bloody. The enemy was engaged with bayonet and grenade, and there were many cases of outstanding bravery."

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HISTORY OF 34th DIV. — Cont'd.

Occupied the Chouguil Pass and vicinity and mopping up of Nazi fanatics took place.

May 13, 1943 the Germans unconditionally surrendered and the Tunisian Campaign was won.

Preparations were begun for the conquest of Sicily. This was in May, 1943.

The Infantry regiments helped set up staging areas for the invasion of Italy.

The 100th Infantry Bn joined the 133rd Inf. This Bn was made up of American Japanese, "Nisei", mostly from Hawaii.

They were assigned in place of the second Bn 133rd which stayed at Algiers for guard for Allied Force Headquarters.

The 34th Division was in reserve for the Salerno operation. The 151st FA Bn was detached and landed on the Salerno beach on "D" day with the 36th Division.

The 135th and 168th RCT's set sail from Oran for Naples. But the port was not available.

The 133rd combat loaded and arrived soon after and landed at the beachhead.

The German Command drew back to form a solid line across Italy. The 34th was directed to prevent this, headed down Highway 7.

Made contact with the enemy at Montemarrano. The 100th first met the enemy at Chiusano.

Montemiletto captured, Benevento entered and the Calore River crossed.

Relieved the 3rd Inf Division along the Volturno River.

The river formed the first obstacle which the Germans chose to defend.

The traffic control by the Division MP's was considered faultless.

Heavy resistance was overcome and the town of Caiazzo was taken.

By the 17th of October our troops had reached Alvinzano. The Enemy was the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division.

The third Crossing of the Volturno turned out to be the Winter Line of German defense.

Our assault across the River began at midnight of November 3, 1943.

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HISTORY OF 34th DIV. — Cont'd.

The German defenders of the fortified town of Roccaravindola surrendered quickly.

The 135th Task Force moved up the Highway and captured the town of Montaquilla.

The fall rains caused repeated floods. The 109th Engineers built bridges and roads repeatedly.

The German Air Force managed to put a complete battery of the 185th FA out of action.

A temporary halt was called to the advance for re-fitting and training.

The German 305th Infantry Division moved into the line. Trained mountain troops.

No winter clothing was available to our troops. Trench foot was common.

The attack upon M. Pantano, 3,300 feet high began. Many casualties resulted.

After maintaining positions the 34th was relieved after 76 successive days and spent Christmas taking hot baths, getting clean clothes and hot food.

The 34th relieved the 38th Division during a howling snowstorm.

Began a house-to-house warfare with bayonets and grenades which lasted for 15 days.

The 34th was ordered to cross the Rapido River north of Cassino. Attack began January 24-25, 1944.

Casualties to men and equipment was terrific because of the open terrain.

The 34th had seriously dented the Gustav Line. The Abbey was wiped out.

It finally took five Divisions to do what the 34th had tried to do alone.

The 2nd Bn 133rd Inf rejoined the 34th Division.

The 34th ordered by sea to Anzio beachhead. After planning and learning, the breakout was made on the morning of May 23. The 34th assigned to hold the perimeter.

Rome was the Goal. The 100th Inf Bn cleared a road-block on Highway 7.

The 34th Signal troops did an outstanding job in maintaining communications.

All Service troops did a magnificent job of their required effort.

At the town of Tarquinia the Germans decided to make a stand on the 7th of June.

This was smashed and the Division was relieved. Spent two weeks out of the line.

442nd Infantry Regiment attached. These were all Nisei and they hit their first combat action at Pombino. Cecina River reached on June 30, 1944.

Riparbella and Rosignano were captured by July 3. Rosignano resulted in much more hand to hand fighting.

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HISTORY OF 34th DIV. — Cont'd.

Rosignano was cleared July 6, 1944. The town was quarantined because of so many enemy dead, so as to prevent epidemics.

The Germans tried to prevent further breakthrough by the 34th so as to protect the Port of Leghorn, and in so doing made it easier to advance to the Arno River valley.

At this stage the Division had command of five Regimental Combat Teams.

July 18 the first units entered the City of Leghorn after a rough and drawn out slugging match with various crack Enemy units.

The 34th set up temporary defensive positions along the south river bank in view of Pisa.

The Division was relieved and went into the resort towns south of Leghorn for rest.

Major General Ryder left the Division for a higher Command. He was succeeded by Major General Charles L. Bolte.

Under General Bolte the Division started a training program for future operations.

The war in Italy paused with the invasion of Southern France. Several of the attached units left for other theatres. The 34th waited for a call to attack the strongest German line yet. The Gothic Line of the Appennines.

September 10, 1944, the 34th entered the attack, crossing the Arno and advanced through Florence as far as Pontolinen.

By the evening of September 12, the second phase of the Gothic Line was completed.

133rd Infantry moved through the enemy defenses and captured Torricella Hill.

133rd entered Montepiano and the breaching of the Gothic Line was made. They advanced short of Monte Caroncina.

135th Infantry took Monte Frassinio after 2 days of bitter struggle.

168th Infantry drove the Gothic Line on the high ridges, east of Montepiano.

The endless attack against mountain strongholds resumed in October.

Monte Venere and Monte Belmonte were attacked and won. Then began the stalemate of the Appennine Line. The action continued for five months.

The Appennine Line guarded the Po Valley. On April 16, 1945, the 34th attacked.

April 21st Bologna was taken. The units of the 34th were in pursuit of the collapsing enemy down Highway 9. This action was called the boldest of the entire campaign.



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