

34th Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

The Email for the Association is:

goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov

WEB Site is: www.34indiv.org



Winter 2011 Issue -

The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is published three times a year. Coming Issues are, Summer 2011 and Fall 2011

34th Infantry Division Association 2011

Reunion – Des Moines, IA

The 2011 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division will be held Friday & Saturday, September 9th & 10th in Des Moines.

Our Association President, Curly Albrecht, made the announcement at the 64st reunion. Please note that the reunion dates are on the first, Friday and Saturday after the 2011 Labor Day weekend.

The 2011 National Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. will again be hosted by the Des Moines Chapter. One of the events planned will be a visit to Camp Dodge, the site of the 34th Infantry Division World War II monument. A special extended visit will be made to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum which supports the activities and research of the 34th Infantry Division Association members. The museum has moved into an entirely new building during the past year and will have many new exhibits in place by the next reunion. If any member has extensive research to do on 34th Division records, there will be an opportunity on Friday, 10 Sep, to conduct research at the State of Iowa Archives where the records are maintained.

The reunion hotel will be the Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center. This is a new hotel located two blocks off of Interstate 35 / 80 at Exit 129 / 86th Street. More Information on reservations will be published in the next newsletter, Spring 2011. The hotel phone number is 515-334-9000. The hotel has shuttle service from the Des Moines Airport and provides a free hot breakfast daily to all guests.

President COL Ron Albrecht wants to make a special effort to invite all the soldiers who have served with 34th Divisional organizations and units during the past ten years in "The War on Terror." We know that you are our future in the continuation of the 34th Infantry Division Assn., which has been carried on for the past 63 years by our forefathers.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team will have arrived home by the next annual reunion in September 2011, and we invite all our combat veterans to attend. We hope to organize some special opportunities for the recently returned soldiers and their spouses.

National Office-34th Infantry Division Association

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

Secretary: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl E-mail: bierlhome@msn.com
Association Website www.34indiv.org

Treasurer: LTC (Ret) Mike Musel E-mail: michael.musel@iowa.gov
Gold Star Museum 515-252-4531

Highly Decorated Soldier Passes

Tech Sgt Sylvester Don Singlestad passed away peacefully from a heart attack on Thursday, Nov. 18th at 2:15 p.m. in Park Rapids, MN. Singlestad was mobilized with the 135th Infantry Regiment, Minnesota National Guard in February 1941 and served through the entire war with the 34th Infantry Division. He was buried at the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley, MN. Don Singlestad was one of the most highly decorated enlisted soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division to serve in WWII. He is well known for his behind the lines work he did with the Italian Partisan group during the war.



Pictured are two former "Red Bull" soldiers, Don Singlestad and Michael Elliott in the LeGiostre Restauraunt in Italy in 2009 prior to the dedication of the 34th Division "Red Bull" highway near Vernio. From left to right; "Tech Sgt S. Don Singlestad and his grandson Dan Sharkey, with Mike Elliott and his three daughters (l-r) Susan Harbit, Patti Kroening, and Dee Ausprung." Michael Elliott 135th Inf Regt) died on March 20th, 2010 and Don Singlestad (135th Inf Regt) died on November 18, 2010. Both men enjoyed life to the fullest. God Bless them both!

Historian: Pat Skelly

E-mail: webmaster@34indiv.org
508-524-3948

64th Reunion for the 34 Inf Div Assn

9-10 September 2011

Stony Creek Inn & Conference Center, Des Moines, IA
(See Spring Newsletter 2011) News Letter)

A Note from Association President Curley Albrecht

Greeting to All Red Bulls,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to ALL! I hope this news letter is finding everyone healthy and your families are well. It is hard to believe that it is 2011. It has been a very busy two years for myself and fellow 34th Division soldiers. Last year at this time I was in Basra, Iraq with the Division HQ's and looking forward to redeploying back to the good old USA, as many of you have done in your time with the Division. Which makes Christmas even more special for our families.

Now let's get down to business TEAM! My 2011 main focus is to work on membership for the Association! This will not happen overnight there are many challenges to this task. As you all know, our new membership will come out of the National Guard units who wear the Red Bull patch. Those being the 34th Division Headquarters, 1st BCT, 34TH CAB, and their units and the 2-135 IN BN in Minnesota as well as the 2nd BCT, 34th ID and its units in Iowa. That is the great pool that we have to draw from!

The challenge that we have to face as a TEAM is, how do we attract those 18 to 25 year old soldier coming back from Iraq (OIF) or Afghanistan (OEF) or even that soldier who has not deployed but is wearing a RED BULL patch to join our Association? I have some idea's but I am not the only person with idea's?

So in the January time frame I want to set down with the Association leadership and have a brain storm session. In which we will layout a five year plan in moving the 34th Infantry Division Association in the right direction for future generations. I am open for your input in this challenge for the Association. Please email or send me a letter or any elected officials of the Association on your thoughts.

I truly believe that with a "Total TEAM EFFORT" we can build a strong Association for future generation to enjoy as we have in the past.

I hope you can join me this coming September in Des Moines for our 64th National Reunion.

AGAIN, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!

COL Ron "Curly" Albrecht
34th ID Association President, ATTACK, ATTACK, ATTACK!
curly.albrecht@us.army.mil 515-252-4375
133rd, Ironman Battalion

Final Roll Call to Date 2010

Lawrence Person, HQ 135th Inf
Earl Jacobson, 34th Inf Div
S. Don Singlestad, F 135th Inf
Susumu Ota, D 100th Inf
Yutaka Suzuki, B 100th Inf
Wallace Ichiyama, A 100th Inf
Masami Iwashita, B 100th Inf
Robert S. Sato, C 100th Inf
David K. Umeda, D 100th Inf
Hisami Fujita, B 100th Inf
Iwao Sukisaki, D 100th Inf
Seichi Hoashi, A 100th Inf
Henry Childers, 34th ID
Joseph Huibsch, 133rd Inf
Neil H. Matsumoto, A 100th Inf
Rocco G. Marzano, C 100th Inf
Michael Elliott, 135th Inf



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

Internet Sites for Information on 2nd BCT, 34th Infantry Division operations in Afghanistan

The 2-34 BCT Defense Video Distribution Service (DVIDS) website: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

The 2-34 BCT Department of Defense (DOD) Live website: <http://iowaredbulls.armylive.dodlive.mil/>

The Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) 101st Airborne website: <http://www.cjtf101.com/>

The Des Moines Register "Iowa National Guard" blog:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/category/news/national-guard/>

The KCRG-TV9/Cedar Rapids Gazette "Operation Enduring Freedom" blog: <http://www.kcrg.com/enduringfreedom>

34th Infantry Division Association WEB Site: www.34indiv.org

Red Bull Commanders during World War II

The "Red Bulls" were led by four commanders, from preparing for activation in July 1940 to inactivation in November 1945.

Major General Ellard A. Walsh (1887-1975) Commanding 34th Division, July 1940 - August 1941.

Ellard Walsh enlisted in the 1st Minnesota Infantry in 1905 and served with the regiment on the Mexican Border in 1916. During World War I, the 1st Minnesota - later the 135th Infantry, - was an element of the 34th "Sandstorm" Division. Walsh was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and sailed with the division to France, just missing combat.

Walsh was rapidly promoted to Lt. Colonel and Asst. Adjutant General of Minnesota in 1921. In 1924 Colonel Walsh was assigned as Chief of Staff of the 34th Division. On 1 July 1927, then a Brigadier General, he was appointed Adjutant General of Minnesota, a position he held until 1949 at age 62.

While continuing to serve as Adjutant General, he assumed command of the 34th Division in July 1940, working to bring it up to the standards for entering active duty in World War II. Finally, on 10 February 1941, the division was formally activated and moved to Camp Claiborne LA for intense and rigorous training under Walsh, a firm and effective champion of and for the 'citizen soldier'.

The division's superior levels of qualification and performance at the 1941 Louisiana Maneuvers cleared the path for the Red Bulls to be selected as the first division - regular, reserve, or guard - for overseas deployment, just one month after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Walsh was not to be with them, however. Due to a medical problem, he relinquished his command of the division, returning to Minnesota and his duties as their Adjutant General. He later served as President of the National Guard Association of the US from 1943 to 1957, forging the groundwork for today's 'citizen soldiers' in our Armed Forces, serving both our governors and our nation.

Major General Russell P. Hartle (1889-1961) Commanding 34th Inf. Div., August 1941 - June 1942.

Russell Hartle, after graduation from St. John's College, Annapolis MD, was assigned in 1910 as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry in the Philippines in 1910. From 1913-1916, he served with the 20th Infantry on the Mexican border during the Pancho Villa revolution. During WW I, Hartle served with the 13th Division as a Captain in France. He graduated from Army Infantry School in 1924, Command and General Staff school in 1925, and Army War College in 1930. After further service in the Philippines and China, Hartle was then sent to the Naval War College, the only officer known to have graduated from both the Army and Naval War Colleges.

Brig. General Hartle took command of the 34th Division on 5 August 1941 at Camp Claiborne LA, and then, in November 1941, he received his second star, promoted to Maj. General while on maneuvers in Louisiana.

In January 1942, Maj. General Hartle with his Headquarters advance party, the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry Regiment, the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, and supporting troops moved to the Brooklyn Army Terminal, boarded H.M.S. Straithard, and sailed for Belfast, Northern Ireland. We were there renamed the 34th Infantry Division.

With the division's arrival in Europe, Hartle was also named as the Commanding General of US Forces in Northern Ireland and of the V Corps, both commands being principally the 34 Infantry and 1st Armored Divisions. Leaving the division in May 1942, he would later be named Deputy Commander of the European Theater of Operations under Lt. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, and as Commander, US Forces in the United Kingdom.

Major General Charles W. Ryder (1892-1960) Commanding 34th Inf. Div., June 1942 - July 1944.

Maj. General Charles "Doc" Ryder commanded the 34th Infantry Division in North Africa, going ashore at Algiers on 8 November 1942. Later, in Italy, under his command the 34th was the only division to have fought at Cassino and Anzio.

Ryder was born 16 January 1892 in Topeka, Kansas. In 1915 he graduated from the United States Military Academy. In 1917-1919, he served as Major and Lt. Colonel in the 16th and 26th Infantry Regiments, 1st Infantry Division, in France and Germany during WW I.

Between the wars, Ryder served in various posts, including the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth KS; the 15th Infantry in Tientsin, China and as Commandant of Cadets at West Point (1937-1941). In 1941-1942, he was Chief of Staff of the VI Corps.

From 12 June 1942 to 21 July 1944, Ryder was the Commanding General, 34th Infantry Division, the first US division deployed to Europe in World War II. He led the division through the North African and Italian campaigns, including the landings at Algiers and at Salerno.

From September 1944 to December 1948, Ryder commanded IX Corps, preparing for the invasion of Japan, and - after the war - serving in the occupation of Japan.

Major General Charles L. Bolte (1895-1989) Commanding 34th Inf. Div., July 1944 - November 1945.

Bolte graduated from what is today the Illinois Institute of Technology with a degree in chemical engineering. He began his military career in 1916 as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry. He saw WW I combat as a company commander in the St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Aisne-Marne offensives with the 58th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division.

Bolte returned to the United States as a Captain in 1919, completed the Infantry Advanced Course at Fort Benning in 1930, and graduated in 1932 from the Command and General Staff School. Bolte completed his education at the Army War College and remained there as an instructor until 1940. where one of his students was Maj. Mark W. Clark.

In 1941, Lt. Colonel Bolte journeyed to London as head of a group of Army observers and, early in 1942, assumed the position of Chief of Staff of US Forces in the United Kingdom. Maj. General, Bolte commanded the 69th Division in 1943, and on 21 July 1944, took over the 34th Infantry Division in Italy, guiding it through successful actions through the Gothic Line, the Apennine Mountains and the Po Valley. Bolte earned two Distinguished Service Medals, Silver Star, Legion of Merit and Purple Heart for his exploits.



Sec Def Gates “War is Turing Around” By D. S. Cloud

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN -- After two days in Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said he was convinced that the massive infusion of American troops over the last year is turning around the 9-year-old war, even as U.S. soldiers remain locked in a grinding fight to control many parts of the country.

It was Gates' most definitive statement yet endorsing the U.S. strategy to have Afghan forces formally take over lead security responsibility in more peaceful regions beginning in the spring, with U.S. and Afghan forces fighting together in the most violent regions through 2014.

Gates had said he had seen tentative signs of progress against Taliban militants. But on Wednesday, he said progress "has exceeded my expectations."

2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division Welcome The President to Afghanistan

Hundreds of 34th Infantry Division soldiers received a special treat on December 3rd when they were invited to attend a welcome event for the Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama, at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. The soldiers of the Red Bull, 2nd Brigade Combat Team presented the president with a 34th Infantry Division Flag after his speech at the air field. He also signed the flag after holding it up for the photo opportunity. All told there were approximately 3,000 soldiers in attendance for the welcome in Afghanistan of which 400 plus were from the 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division. (Photo credited to SGM Craig Berte, 2/34th BCT)



Soldiers from the 832nd Engineer Co, Keokuk, IA

Combat Operations In Afghanistan



PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan –1st Lt. Ben Davis 2nd platoon leader and an Ankeny, Iowa resident, and Staff Sgt. Peter Moeller and Sgt. Kris Rude both residents of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, all combat engineer’s with 832nd Engineer Company, attached to 1st squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment 2nd BCT, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa National Guard, provide security for fellow soldiers during a patrol in the Dolatshi village, Dec. 02. The platoon visited the village to speak with the local village leaders about security issues within the Dolatshi village, and to conduct a patrol to ensure security in the area. The soldiers arrived in country in October 2010. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Kristina L. Gupton, TF Wolverine Public Affairs.



Laghman PROVINCE, Afghanistan – SSG Jennifer Voegtlin, a combat medic with HQ’s 133rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa ARNG applies bandages to a Afghan girl after treating her burn wounds to her waist and leg, Dec 16th at Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam. SSG Voegtlin is a resident of Altoona, IA and is a paramedic in civilian life with the Des Moines fire department. Photo by SSG Ryan Matson, Task Force Red Bull PAO.

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), or (1) 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 or 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 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 a donation to the operation of the 34th Inf Div Assn.
- () 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 September.

The National Secretary is COL (Ret) Russ Bierl. His E Mail address is bierlhome@msn.com The National Association WEB Site is <http://www.34infdiv.org/index.html> Phone No 515-252-4531 or email goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov
 A newsletter is sent to current members three times a year by U.S. mail. All newsletter are shown on the Association WEB site.
 The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum maintains an office for the association. WEB site www.iowanationalguard.com

Museum Store - 34th Inf Div Assn Price List – Dec 2010

34 th Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 22.00	34 th Red Bull Div Insignia Pins (Lapel Pin)	\$3.50
34 th Red Bull T-Shirt Size _____	\$15.00	Red Bull Patch (Black & Red)	\$5.00
34 th Div Red Bull Ball Cap	\$12.00	34 th Div Refrigerator Magnet	\$1.00
34 th Red Bull Window Decal	\$1.50	34 th Div Red Bull Neck Tie	\$8.00
34 th Red Bull Jacket Size _____	\$30.00	34 th Div Red Bull Flag (3X5')	\$65.00
34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$6.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$1.50
		<u>Books Available:</u>	
		Dogfaces Who Smiled Through Tears (The 34 th Red Bull Infantry Division in WWII)	\$30.00
		Citizen Soldier in WWII Story of the 168 th Inf from Lt /CPT/ MAJ / LTC Ed Bird)	\$10.00

*Add \$5.00 for shipping any Book. or * Add \$3.00 for shipping any other items.

Sub Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

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

Name: _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Email: lowagoldstarmuseum@iowa.gov or Call 515-252-4531 if you have a question.

Little Known Facts About World War II

(These facts are republished from DefenseWatch, November 19, 2003 Credited to Col. D.G. Swinford USMC (Retired). ©2003 Defense Watch. Reprinted from Military.com.)

1. The first German serviceman killed in [World War II](#) was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940), the highest-ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the U.S. Army Air Corps – (by a short bomb drop after D Day during the Normandy breakout). If you include Pearl Harbor, Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd was the highest ranking American killed. He was killed on board the U.S.S. Arizona when the Japanese launched their surprise attack on December 7, 1941.
2. The youngest U.S. serviceman was 12-year-old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress).
3. At the time of [Pearl Harbor](#), the top U.S. Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the Oklahoma National Guard, [45th Infantry Division](#), was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika." All three names were soon changed for PR purposes. The 45th Division adopted the "Thunderbird" patch which it still wears today.
4. More U.S. servicemen died in the U.S. Army Air Corps than in the Marine Corps. While completing the required 25 missions your chance of being killed was 71 percent.
5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese ace Hiro Yoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so at long range if your tracers were hitting the target 80 percent of your rounds were missing. Worse yet, tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.
7. When the allied armies reached the Rhine River in Germany, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal, from the lowest private to Gen. George Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).
8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but it wasn't worth the effort for the small amount of bombs they could drop and not be able to return to base.
9. The German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.
10. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and then forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and further forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the U.S. Army.
11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 U.S. and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Twenty-one troops were killed in the firefight. It would have been worse if there had been any Japanese soldiers on the island.

34th Infantry Division “Red Bulls” In Combat Again in Afghanistan

In the largest single deployment of Iowa National Guard troops since World War II, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry “Red Bull” Division (2-34th BCT), began phased deployment to Eastern Afghanistan in October, and officially relieved the Vermont National Guard’s 86th BCT at Bagram Airfield (“BAF”) on Dec. 4, 2010. The 2-34th BCT comprises approximately 3,000 Iowa and Nebraska National Guard soldiers.

The mission of “Task Force Red Bulls” marks just the second time a U.S. National Guard brigade has been given responsibility for geographic area of operations in Afghanistan. The brigade is under the command of 101st Airborne “Screaming Eagles” Division, headquartered in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry division will be tasked to serve as a battle space owner in Afghanistan, said 101st Airborne Division commander MG John Campbell in a Dec. 7 statement. “The brigades mission will be to partner with the Afghan National Security Forces ... to increasing capability of local governance ... to implementing and continuing new development programs ... to improving quality of life on Bagram.” He continued, “The 2-34 BCT ‘Red Bulls’ from the Iowa National Guard have some big shoes to fill, in replacing the 86th Brigade from the Vermont National Guard, but I am confident they will meet the challenges of this deployment with success. I have seen many of the Task Force Red Bulls soldiers on my battlefield circulation, and I have seen first-hand that they are well disciplined and well trained. I am confident that under the leadership of COL Ben Correll and CSM Joel Arnold that Task Force Red Bulls is exactly the right unit to continue capitalizing on the successes of Task Force Wolverine. Welcome to Afghanistan, Red Bulls of the 34th Infantry Division!”

Task Force Red Bulls comprises: **Headquarters, 2-34th Brigade Combat Team**, Boone, Iowa.

334th Brigade Support Battalion, headquartered in Johnston. The 334th BSB is commanded by LTC John Perkins, assisted by CSM Willie Adams. The unit is responsible for the operation of Bagram Airfield, an installation of approximately 30,000 U.S. and other personnel.

2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB), 34th Infantry Division (2/34th BSTB), headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The 2/34th BSTB is commanded by LTC Allyn Gronewold, assisted by CSM David Enright. Due to requirements surrounding the Bagram base operations mission, much of the 2/34th BSTB has been task-organized under 334th BSB.

1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment (1/113th Cav.), headquartered in Sioux City, Iowa, is commanded by LTC David Updegraff, assisted by CSM Stephen Wayman. The 1/113th Cav. is responsible for security operations around Bagram Airfield and in surrounding Parwan Province.

Personnel of Iowa’s **1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery (1/194th FA)** have been transferred throughout the brigade. The 1/194th FA is headquartered in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and is commanded by LTC John Cunningham. The Nebraska National Guard’s **1st Squadron, 134th Cavalry Regiment (1/134th Cav.)**, headquartered in Lincoln, Neb., is commanded by LTC Tom Rynders, assisted by CSM Marty Baker.

The 133rd and 168th Infantry Battalions have been attached to other brigades within the 101st Airborne Division:

1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment (1/133rd Inf.), headquartered in Waterloo. The 1/133rd Inf. is commanded by LTC Steven Kremer and CSM Marcus Mittvalsky. The 1/133rd Inf. is currently operating in Laghman Province. According to news reports, 1/133rd Inf. soldiers captured one Taliban fighter just days after arriving in Afghanistan.

1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment (1/168th Inf.), from Council Bluffs. The 1/168th Inf. is commanded by LTC Steve Boesen, assisted by CSM Duane Hinman. The 1/168th Inf. is currently operating in Paktia Province.

Iowa soldiers deployed with the 2-34th BCT wear the Red Bull patch on their left shoulders, and are authorized to wear the patch as “shoulder sleeve insignia” (SSI) more commonly referred to as a “combat patch.”

Living conditions for Red Bull soldiers in Afghanistan range from the densely packed Bagram Airfield, in which soldiers are bunked in multi-level stacks of air-conditioned and heated semi-trailer containers, to austere platoon- and company-sized Combat Outposts (“COP”), in which soldiers do laundry in 5-gallon cans filled with river water, lack hot showers and Internet access, and must burn toilet waste.

The 2010 deployment is not the first time the Red Bull patch has been seen in Afghanistan. In 2004-2005, nearly 1,000 Iowa National Guard soldiers deployed as “Task Force 168,” where they provided security for Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) sites across the country.

In other connections to Red Bull history, 2-34th BCT commander COL Ben Corell and CSM Joel Arnold were in charge of the 1/133rd Inf. during its deployment with the Minnesota’s National Guard’s 1-34th BCT, 2005 to 2007. The 22-month deployment was the longest continuous deployment to Iraq of any U.S. Army unit. Nebraska’s 1/134th Cav. also participated in that deployment.

We can track the deployment of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team on the WEB Site of the 34th Infantry Division Association. (<http://www.34infdiv.org>) and 2-34 BCT Def Video Svc (DVIDS): <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

Taken from the official U.S. Army Monthly Report, 133rd Inf Regt, 1-31 May 1945.

Arborio (J6271, Map Italy Road, 1:200,000, Sheet 4). 2 May 1945- This day the German armies surrendered in Italy. It marked the period of a long, long trail which stretches far back into Africa, some 2500 miles and 30 months ago. During that time there have been mountains, deserts, rolling flat land, scorching heat, bitter cold, snow, ice, and sleet to plague the men in the unit as well as long, drawn out fanatical enemy resistance.

Several thousands of our buddies who once wore the patch of the "Red Bull" are sleeping their eternal sleep in cemeteries stretching from Oran to the Swiss and French borders. These men are not present to give thanks with us that the long trail in Italy has drawn to its end. However, their deeds and contributions to the cause of our arm will never be forgotten by those of us who came through to this point.

In addition, there are those who were so unfortunate enough as to fall by the wayside seriously wounded and are now sitting on the sidelines. Though not present with us today, those of our buddies who have spent hellish months as prisoners of the enemy have more than earned their share of thanks that the people of the liberated nations bestowed upon the victorious Allied Forces.

To these we offer our whole-hearted thanks for their heroic performances and the sacrifices they made in the cause of Democracy and freedom for mankind. **Kef-el-Amar, Sbeitla, Hajeb-el-Aioun, Fondouk, Hill 609, Eddekhila, Tunis, Bizerte, Raf Raf**, Amphibious training at **Arzew**, Battle Inoculation (after a six-month campaign) near **Slissen**, the soft, cool sands and cork-oak near **Ain-el-Turck**, waterproofing vehicles and loading for a combat amphibious landing, if necessary, in the Gulf of Salerno.

As we sailed past the cliffs and casino at **Canastel** and left the **Oran Harbor** behind, we knew that the African chapter of our Odyssey had ended. Then came **Salerno**, landing on the beaches in assault boats, two or three days in a mosquito infested bivouac and then back to the, by now, old business of chasing Krauts. Few of us at that time realized how long, grueling, and bloody the chase was to be. Up through the rough, rugged, sometimes almost precipitous terrain of Italy's boot to our first real contact with the enemy near **Benevento**, on out across the **Calore River** and up to the notorious **Volturno** which has become both a legend and a nightmare to the men of the Regiment.

Across the Volturno a second time and out on to the famous "Pool Table" near **San Angelo D'Alife**, where the Regiment suffered heavy casualties from a combination of a fierce enemy counter-attack and from shells from our own artillery and tank destroyers falling short and landing among the troops. Superb leadership on the part of the officers of the battalions quickly restored the situation and the mission was accomplished. San Angelo D'Alife, the hills before the now widely cursed Volturno River, across the river for a third time and up into the cold mountains again and head on into the enemy's **Gustav Line** defenses.

Cassino, a three weeks that are still a nightmare to those of us who remember them. Then an all too short rest and another boat trip. As we sailed out of **Naples** harbor, aboard an LCI [Landing Crafty Infantry], bound for the **Anzio Beachhead**, we knew that another phase had passed and that soon we would be pushing again. Anzio - flat-land, perfect enemy observation, no one daring to move during daylight hours; **Lenuvio**, the **Alban Hills**, and then **Rome**, the eternal city. Just a glimpse of the most storied places in the world and off on a wild foot race after the broken and retreating elements of the enemy armies.

Civitavecchia, Tarquinia, San Vincinza, Cecina, mountains again and then the **Arno River** and the famous leaning tower of **Pisa** across the river. Back again north of **Florence** and into the hall of the well-prepared **Gothic Line** defenses. On and on and finally grinding to a halt on **Mount Belmonte**, the farthest point of penetration by any Fifth Army unit in the fall offensive about 10 miles south of the promised land of the **Po Valley**. Here came a long winter of active defense and as spring came on, the tension in the air bespoke all too well of the coming attack.

After the jump-off, came **Bologna, Modena, Reggio, Parma**, and patrols to the river. Then came storied **Mantova**, the gateway to the **Brenner Pass** and swiftly on westward to **Brescia, Bergamo, Milano, Gallarate** (J946872, Map Italy, 1/50,000, Sheet 44 I), and on to our present location **Avigniana** (H820330, Map Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 55), just west of **Turin**. Today marks the end of a slashing, hard driving campaign which lasted only sixteen days and destroyed the will to resist of two powerful enemy armies. Today, the men wearing the "Red Bull" can look back proudly on a longer period of time of actual contact with the enemy than any other division.

The 34th Infantry Division suffered 3,737 killed in action, 14,165 wounded and 3,460 missing in action: a total of 21,362 battle casualties.

The source for this information is the regimental monthly operations report, "History - 133rd Infantry - 34th Infantry Division: From 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945". Thank you to COL (Ret) Jerry Gorden, Red Bull and past Association Secretary / Treasurer for making this information available.