

34th Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Association WEB Page:
www.34infdiv.org



Fall 2013 Issue -
The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is
published three times a year.

66th Annual Reunion - 2013

The 2013 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. was hosted by the Des Moines Chapter on Oct 10-11, 2013, in Johnston, IA at the Stoney Creek Inn.

The new president elected by the 34th Infantry Division Association is COL Steve Osborn, who is assigned as the G3 of the Iowa National Guard and former commander of the 168th Infantry Bn. The 1st Vice President is LTC Steve Boesen, also past commander of the 168th Infantry Battalion. The new three year trustees are CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee, BG Ben Corell, SSG Tanner Johnson, and LTC Scott Keeley.

We had a total of 54 members and guests attend the 34th Infantry Division Reunion Banquet. The main speaker at the reunion was Brig Gen Harold M. Thompson who spoke of the mobilization of the 2-133rd Infantry Battalion for the Vietnam War. His message talked about the success of the organization in meeting the Army training standards prior to the soldiers of the organization being sent to Vietnam as replacements. We were blessed to have six WWII combat veterans of the 34th Infantry Division recognized at the reunion banquet. They included Willard Backstrom A/168th, Joe Boitnott D/168th, Warren Milner G/133rd, Gerald Robertson HQ Special Troops, 168th, Charles Sens L/168th, Stanley Vomacka H/135th. "God Bless You All."

The new association Chaplain, CPT Skip Manus was introduced to the association along with Jim Berg, who was elected as the Sergeant at Arms of the association.

During the 34th Infantry Division Association business meeting it was announced that the Tri-State Chapter members have rolled into the National Association as Life Members, and will no longer hold separate meetings. The Commanders Own Chapter in Rosemont, Minnesota at the 34th Infantry Division Headquarters continues to grow. They hope to host the National Reunion in the Minneapolis / St. Paul area in 2015.

The dates for the 2014 Reunion are now set for 4-5 Oct 2014 at the Johnston Stoney Creek Inn. During the eleven years of the "War on Terror" we have had over 20 thousand soldiers serve in the 34th Division in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as deployments for Nobel Eagle support for homeland defense in the U.S. We plan a special welcome back for these soldiers and their families at the next reunion. Watch for news on this in the Winter 2014 issue of the newsletter.

COL Curly Albrecht gave a special thanks to our Des Moines Chapter members for hosting the reunion. He announced they would again sponsor the 2014 Reunion on Oct 3-4, (Friday and Saturday) at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston. It was really a fun reunion and everyone enjoyed the briefing by CPT Randall Stanford, Trp B/113th Cav and LTC Michael Wunn, 2nd Bde Combat Team, on their experiences and operations in Afghanistan during 2010.

See more photos of the 66th Reunion in this newsletter.



COL Steve Osborn, is the new President of the 34th Infantry Division Association. COL Osborn is an Infantry Officer and graduate of the U.S. Army War College currently serving as the G3 for the Iowa National Guard. COL Osborn has served in the 1-133rd Infantry, Headquarters 2/34 BCT, and commanded the 1-168th Infantry prior to a deployment to Iraq in 2009 as the Deputy G3 for the 34th Infantry Division.



BG Ben Corell, (L) past president of the 34th ID Assn is enjoying a lighter moment of the evening with WWII veteran Willard Backstrom, A/168 from Lady Lake, FL.

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving to the RED BULL TEAM!

As I assume the duties of Association President, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank BG Ben Corell for his leadership, friendship, and insight over the past year as he served as President of the 34th Infantry Division Association. I also want to recognize MG David Elicerio for his leadership and service as Commander, 34th Infantry Division, as he passes command of the Red Bull Division to BG Neal Loidolt.

In looking to the future, our Army is preparing for another post conflict transition, a cycle of responsible governance that has been managed successfully numerous times in the past. As this transition takes place, we as an association have a responsibility to communicate the history of the Red Bull Division, both past and present. We must tell our story and ensure our fellow citizens, our communities, and our political leaders understand the deep heritage and relevant capabilities of the Red Bull Division.

As an Association, it is also our responsibility to maintain the history of the 34th Infantry Division. In doing so, we must remember and honor those who have served, communicate the current on-goings of the Division, and support our Wounded Warriors. In achieving this purpose we must embrace our young Red Bull veterans, we must pull them into the mix, learn from their recent experiences, teach them the history of those who have served before them, and keep the Red Bull legacy strong.

I am honored and humbled to have been selected as your Association President and I will work to ensure our purpose, our history, and our future is maintained. I want to thank every member of the Association and every Soldier within the 34th Infantry Division, past and present, for your service, commitment, and support. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and ask you to remember and support our deployed Service Members and their families.



ATTACK!
Steve Osborn
34th Infantry Division Association President

34th Inf Div Final Roll Call

Arthur Sherman, 34th ID
Harry F. Kaczorowski, 168th Inf, 34th ID
Albert Oki, HQ 100th Inf, 34th ID
Masaichi Yoza, B 100th Inf, 34th ID
Johnny M. Chirafis, 133rd Inf, 34th ID
Philip Daurio, F 135th Inf, 34th ID
Pasco Iacifano, H 168th Inf, 34th ID
Robert L. Hunt, 34th ID
Paul Jacobus, 34th ID
Larry W. Thompson, 2-133rd Inf
Oran W. Craig, 34th ID
Daniel P. Drevnick, 34th MP Co, 34th ID
James D. Wertish, 34th MP Co, 34th ID
Carlos E. Wilcox IV, 34th MP Co, 34th ID
Greg N. Riewer, A 136th Inf, 34th ID
Michael Mettelle, A 134th BSB, 34th ID
James M. Wosika, Jr, B 136th Inf, 34th ID
Nicholas D. Turcotte, A 135th Inf, 34th ID
Bryan T. McDonough, B 136th Inf, 34th ID
Corey Rystad, B 136th Inf, 34th ID
Joshua R. Hanson, A 136th Inf
Kyle R. Miller 1-125 FA, 34th ID
Brent W. Koch, E 136th Inf
David F. Day, 1-151 FA, 34th ID
Jesse M. Lhotka, 1-151 FA,
Jason G. Timmerman, 1-151 FA
Tad T. Hervas, 34th ID
James R. McGaffin, 34th ID
Sigwel Wood, F 133rd Inf, 34th ID
Russell Nelson, F 168th Inf, 34th ID
Nobuichi Masatsugu, 100th Inf, 34th ID
Harry Jin Fukusawa, 100th Inf, 34th ID
Waldon H. Johnson, 34th ID
Carroll Baber, A 133rd Inf, 34th ID
Charles Wise, 34th ID
Jack R. Yepsen, 34th ID
Seiso Kamishita, F 100th Inf, 34th ID

*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
Secretary: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl E-mail: bierlhome@msn.com
Association Website www.34infdiv.org
Web Site Manager Pat Skelly
67th Planned Reunion 4-5 October 2014, Johnston, IA

Treasurer: LTC (Ret) Mike Musel 515-252-4531
Email: michael.musel@iowa.gov Gold Star Museum
Senior Historian: Pat Skelly 508-524-3948
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Facebook Webmasters
SFC Ashlee Lolkus, Herman Poggensee

Facebook 34th Inf Div Assn: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>
Internet 34th Inf Div Assn: <http://www.34infdiv.org>
Also, follow the 2-34th Red Bulls at! <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT> <http://www.twitter.com/IowaRedBulls>
<http://www.flickr.com/IowaRedBulls>
1st BCT: <http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls>
2nd BCT: <http://www.facebook.com/IowaRedBulls>



Warrant Officer Mellissa Johnson & SFC Mathew Tormey, instructors at the Sustainment Training Center (STC) at Cp Dodge, are showing the reunion guests the .50 Cal Rifle & 7.62 Automatic Sniper Rifle used by today's 34th Infantry Division soldiers. These rifles were used during combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. The visit to the Training Center also included a vehicle and equipment tour. This is so different from our days with a 1903A3!



Charles Sens L/168 and his wife Jeannette, are shown reviewing the 34th Infantry Division exhibit at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge. They have been to many 34th ID reunions.

Photos of the 66th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association



Shown (L to R front) are Charles Sens L/168th Willard Backstrom A/168th, Stanley Vomacka H/135th, (back row) CPT Randall Stanford who served with the 113th Cav Sqdn, Mildred Fencil, spouse of 34th soldier Warren Fencil, Darlene Smith, spouse of Charles Smith 34th ID, Gerald Robertson Special Troops 34th ID HQ's, and Warren Milner G/133rd Infantry. The Group photo was taken after the most interesting combat presentation by CPT Stanford on his deployment to Afghanistan as commander of Troop B/ 113th Cavalry Squadron, 2nd Brigade Combat Team in 2009-10.



Joe Boitnott, (right) was one of the six World War II veteran soldiers who attended the 34th Inf Div Reunion. Joe was mobilized with D/168th Infantry from Des Moines and served through the entire war in North Africa and Italy. He is shown with fellow WWII vet Willard Backstrom from A/168th who received two purple hearts. Russell Bierl, the Secretary of the 34th Infantry Division Association is standing between the two old soldiers as they discuss their times together in the 1st Battalion, especially the Battle of Monte Casino, where Joe received his purple heart. He says the mule he was leading up the mountain gave his life for Joe when he took the shrapnel from a mortar round.



New Officers were Sworn In at the 66th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association Annual meeting on Oct 12th 2013. From (L to R front row) SSG Tanner Johnson, Herman Poggensee, Russell Bierl, (Back Row) MSG Daniel Ewer, CHP CPT Skip Manus, Jim Berg, COL Steve Osborn, Trustee BG Ben Corell & Michael Musel.



Old soldiers visit the Iowa Gold Star Museum at the 66th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association Annual meeting on Oct 12th 2013. The soldiers relived their past after first coming together as trained soldiers over 70 years ago. The WWII equipment is being shown by Russell Flattery, the son of a WWII veteran.

66th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association



Staff Sergeant's James Sherrill, 1-194th Field Artillery Bn, and Tanner Johnson, 334th Brigade Support Bn are shown talking with World War II veteran Warren Milner G/133rd and his wife Virginia. SSG Johnson is a Red Bull with G. Co 334 BSB. He served with HHB 1-194 FA during the 02-03 Homeland Security call up, with Co E, 334/1-133 IN during the OIF deployment 05-07, and was attached to the 1-134 CAV out of Nebraska for OEF 10-11, in Afghanistan.



SFC Ashlee Lolkus, HQ's 34th Infantry Division is shown with BG Ben Corell, DCG, 34th Infantry Division, after being awarded the Iowa Meritorious Service Medal at the business meeting of the 34th Infantry Division Reunion. SFC Lolkus served as the senior NCO of the Public Affairs Section during the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division deployment to Afghanistan in 2010-11. SFC Lolkus now lives in Washington D.C.

34th Infantry Division Assn. Officers



President	COL Stephen Osborn
1 st Vice President	LTC Stephen Boesen
2 nd Vice President	LTC Tim Sulzner
1 Year Trustees	MSG Daniel Ewer LTC David Visser BG Craig Bargfrede SFC Ashlee Lolkus
2 Year Trustees	Mark Zirkelbach Ron Albrecht, Past Pres MAJ Jason Burley CSM Joel Arnold
3 Year Trustees	Hermann Poggensee LTC Scott Keeley BG Ben Corell SSG Tanner Johnson
Secretary	Russell Bierl
Treasurer	Michael Musel
SGT at Arms	Jim Berg
Sr. Historian/Web Site Mgr	Pat Skelly
Chaplain	CPT Skip Manus

34th Infantry Division Association Facebook Pages

Many of our members as well as recently returned soldiers already know that the Association has an active Facebook site. We are all excited to have The Association on Facebook, where all members of the 34th ID returning from tours overseas spend time and can get exposure to our organization. We hope the Facebook page will assist in recruiting new members from the younger demographic and expanding membership for all chapters.

The 34th Infantry Division Association gives a "Big Thank You" to Ashlee Lolkus, 34th Div HQ's and CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee who helped create the page for the overall National organization, as well as the Des Moines Chapter. Ashlee, with her public affairs expertise has done a wonderful job updating and promoting the National page. Pat Skelly, the Association Historian, has also provided information and support from his experience with the Association Web Page.

The URL for the 34th ID Assn. National page is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/34th-Infantry-Division-Association/168699226545671>

The URL for the Des Moines Chapter 34th page is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/34th-Infantry-Division-Association-Des-Moines-Chapter/246653428705992>

We encourage all Red Bull Soldiers who have a Facebook account to log on and share their stories with friends who share their common interests. This can be a site where you may be able to track down a buddy or report updates to your military career.



Range Qualification at Cp Ripley

1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment Soldiers conduct M240B Automatic Machine Gun weapon qualification at Camp Ripley Training Center during their Annual Training on June 18, 2013.

Manufactured by Fabrique Nationale, the M240B cal. 7.62 mm, was chosen by the U.S. military for different roles after large world-wide searches and competitions. The Machine gun is a belt-fed gas-operated, air-cooled, crew served, fixed headspace weapon.

The M240B is a successful and well-regarded weapon system that has proven itself in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, serving as a powerful supplement to the lighter 5.56 mm-based M249 Machine Gun, and M4 Carbine. The 7.62 mm round provides good penetration and stopping power, a characteristic that is especially appreciated in the urban environments where many Iraqi engagements took place. Overall, the M240B's combat record must be considered superior to the problematic M60 Machine Gun that it has entirely replaced in US service. The M60 Machine replaced M1918 A3, 30 Cal Browning Machine Gun that was used during World War II and Korea.



34th Infantry Div WWII Memorial

The 34th Infantry Division Association of “Red Bulls” can be proud that twenty-six years ago marked the dedication of the large granite 34th Infantry Division WWII Memorial at Camp Dodge, in Johnston, Iowa. The memorial was dedicated during the associations annual reunion on September 12, 1987. Those in attendance, which included Retired Div Cmdr, Maj Gen Charles Bolte, were happy to be part of the dedication which brought together close to a thousand former World War II soldiers, their families, current military and the media to mark the special day. The 34th Army Band provided the music, and a Color Guard from the 34th Infantry Brigade, the unit that carried on the lineage of the 34th Infantry Division, was posted for the ceremony. The 194th FA provided a Firing Battery and allowed the WWII artillery veterans to fire the salute howitzers.

The success of this effort can be directly attributed to Charles Smith, A Company, 168th Infantry Regiment, who enlisted into the Army for World War II from North Kansas City, Missouri. PVT Charlie Smith

graduated from High school in 1940, and found himself being sent to North Africa as a filler, without even the benefit of Basic Unit Training. He was hooked up with the Des Moines boys from A Company, 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, who gave him the nickname “Missouri.” With intense “OJT” he served as a rifleman through North Africa and the early part of Italy, advancing to the rank of SGT before he came down with hepatitis. He spent months in three hospitals and later, after his recovery, was sent to do supply work in the Corps Rear area at the “Racetrack” in Naples, until the end of the war.

Charles developed the monument plans and presented a resolution to the membership at the 1985 Reunion, to build a memorial that would honor the 34th Divisions’ WWII exploits and memorialize the soldiers who were killed in combat. He volunteered to be the chairman of the Memorial Committee.

The final cost of the Memorial Monument was \$14,096. The association raised more money than necessary for the actual monument so the committee made the decision to purchase two granite benches to place beside the monument for a cost of \$1,356.



Shown are Charles Smith, past president of the 34th Inf Div Assn., N Kansas City, MO and Lawrence Seely, Clear Lake, MN, in front of the 34th Infantry Division WWII Memorial on the date of the dedication. Charles served in A/168th Infantry and Lawrence Seely served in I/ 135th Infantry. The two men, along with many other volunteers raised over \$15,000 to build the monument. Each year the Association places a wreath at the Cp Dodge Memorial as well as at National Cemeteries in North Africa and Italy, and the state veteran cemeteries in Iowa and Minnesota. Both Charles and Lawrence are now deceased.



The 34th Div Has Unmanned Aircraft

Sgt. Nicholas Erdos-Thayer (right), Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle crew chief, conducts pre-flight checks as Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Dampier, Unmanned Aerial Systems standardization operator, helps establish communication by radio. Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, A Co., 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division, began conducting launch, sustained flight, recovery and New Equipment Training on the Unmanned Aerial System at the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operation Facility at Camp Ripley, July 23, 2013. Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Loch.

The RQ-7 Shadow 200 is the smallest of the Shadow family of unmanned aircraft systems developed by AAI. It is in operational service with the US Army and US Marine Corps.

Shadow 200 is used to locate, recognize and identify targets up to 125km from a brigade tactical operations centre. The system recognizes tactical vehicles by day and night from an altitude of 8,000ft and at a slant range of 3.5km. Imagery and telemetry data is transmitted in near-real time from the Shadow ground control station to joint stars common ground station, all-sources analysis system and to the army field artillery targeting and direction system.

The air vehicle system can be transported by two military wheeled vehicles and can be operated round-the-clock from unprepared sites by the 22-soldier crew. The Shadow TUAS can carry payloads up to 27kg (60lb) including sensors and electronic warfare systems.

The Shadow 200 can be catapult launched from a hydraulic rail launcher. The guidance of the air vehicle can be pre-programmed before take-off or remotely controlled during the flight.

All flight training for the divisions Shadow UAV's is conducted at Camp Ripley Minnesota.



We are proud to bring back the original 'bannerhead' from volume 1 of the original Red Bulletin. The "combat newspaper" of the 34th Infantry Division was published weekly in Italy. The first issue was published on March 17, 1945, while we were on the Winter Line of the North Apennine Mountains, waiting to liberate the city of Bologna. The last issue was published on Sep 28, 1945 in Cividale while we were hoping for orders to leave the Italian-Yugoslav border for home after 44 months in World War II Europe and North Africa.

===== First REDBULLETIN extract:

The Red Bulletin, March 17 1945, vol.1 no.1 p.3 Medical Officer's Skill, Compassion Save Life Of Wounded Nazi Soldier by T-5 Milton O. Larson, Unit Correspondent, 109th Med Bn

The German soldier was seriously wounded in fighting in the snow-covered hills south of Bologna. The aid men who brought him into a 109th Medical Battalion clearing station doubted if he would live. After plasma had been administered, it was found necessary to give him a transfusion of whole blood. Captain Archibald Fishberg asked for volunteers, blood donors. They were readily obtained.

The wounded German was in deep shock, and it was only after an hour or more of patient attention and care that he regained consciousness and asked if he was going to live.

"Yes, you're going to be alright," said the surgeon.

"Thank God ... " sighed the German soldier.

"Don't thank YOUR God," said Captain Fishbeck, "thank a Jewish doctor."

The German prisoner of war was speechless from shock at the abrupt statement, but in his pain-filled eyes were humility and gratitude.

He would survive the war.

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (4) 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 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 2013

34 th Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 22.00	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 Ball Cap	\$12.00	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 _____	\$30.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$ 2.00
34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00		
34 th Infantry Division Coin (3" dia. X 1/4" – Scene 168 th INF - Winter Line Fighting Italy front & inscription – back)			\$25.00
<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 by LT /CPT/ MAJ / LTC Ed Bird)			\$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 \$ _____

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.