

34th Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Winter 2015 Issue -
The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is
published three times a year.

Association WEB Page:
www.34infdiv.org



"First Minnesota" Chapter Organized in Mankato, MN

The 34th Infantry Division Association is proud to announce that a new Chapter has been approved by the Board and Trustees to be organized in the 2-135th Infantry Battalion, in Mankato, MN, as well as in the line companies of the battalion.

The new chapter will be known as the "First Minnesota" Chapter. The person who was the driving force in the effort to organize the new chapter was CSM Chris Stroner, who had served many years in Company A of the 2-135th Infantry Battalion, and now is the Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

CSM Stroner serves, in civilian life, as a Police Sergeant in Hopkins, MN.

The First Minnesota Chapter now has over 90 paid members who meet at the armory in Mankato. The current acting President of the chapter is CSM Chris Stroner. The acting V.P. is CPT Adam Stock, currently assigned as commander of HHC in Mankato. The acting Secretary / Treasurer is CPT Joseph Kelly, who is currently assigned as Company B Commander.

The 2-135 Infantry Battalion is organized with units in the following locations; HHC (-), Mankato with Det 1 in Owatonna; A Company, West St. Paul; B Company, Rochester; C Company Winona; and D Company; Albert Lea; & 1135th Combat Support Co. in Ardin Hills.



Command Sergeant Major Chris Stroner, is shown in the above photo in Iraq as a SFC assigned to A Company, 2-135th Infantry as part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team that was deployed to Iraq. Company A and Company C, 2-135 were mobilized separately in 2005 to support the BTB and 133rd Infantry Battalion which was assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team. Both A CO and C Co were awarded MUC's for that deployment.

The leadership of the new chapter believes there are many more soldiers who will join the organization which include, those active in the National Guard, and those who have retired or ended their term of enlistment. The new chapter is planning a number of events over the coming year. Talk with CSM Chris Stroner to join the Chapter.



This photo shows the 2-135 Infantry Battalion "Jump TOC" in the field at XCTC, Ft McCoy WI 2014 Back Row L to R: CPT Ethan Bremer - SFC Paul Robinson - CPT Joe Kelly - LTC Simon Schaefer - SFC Jacob Riggs - SSG Matthew Hite - CPT Brian Morgan. Fron Row L to R: SPC Schaak Michael - SGT Sean Eastling - SPC Tyler Lewis - SPC Keith Hassa.

Greetings to the RED BULL TEAM!

I hope everyone had a hearty Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas and New Years. 2015 looks to be a great year for the Red Bull Association.

The new year welcomes a new chapter to the 34th Division Association. I would like to congratulate CSM Chris Stroner. CSM Stroner is the Command Sergeant Major for the 2-135th Infantry Battalion. He has started the 1st Minnesota Chapter in Mankato Minnesota. This newest chapter comes to us with 90 new members. CSM Stroner isn't stopping there he is working with a second CSM in Minnesota to start another chapter. We are very pleased to have the 1st Minnesota chapter as a part of our association and we look forward to possibly another new chapter starting in Minnesota.

The New Year brings an association that is growing. The new young members will hopefully help the association grow by attracting even more members. We hope that the efforts in Minnesota will also spark new interest here in Iowa for existing chapters to add new members and for new chapters to form. As the 34th Division is spread out across the United States eventually we will need to reach out to those units and try to grow chapters there.

2015 also starts off with four committees working on a variety of items that will help us attract more members to the association. We will have more information from each of those committees in the next news letter.

2015 will also bring more celebrations around the world as the United States and other countries continue to mark the 70th Anniversary of World War II. The Battle of the Bulge was just celebrated in Europe.

I hope everyone has a great 2015. I want to thank all of you for your support to the association. Hope to see you at the 2015 Reunion in Minneapolis.



ATTACK!

CSM Willie Adams

34th Infantry Division Association President

william.l.adams80.ctrl@mail.mil

34th Inf Div Final Roll Call

Fall 2014

Robert Kopsa, D 168th Inf, 34th ID

Giyoza Uychara, A 100th Inf, 34th

Richard Tsutomu Ishimoto, A 100th Inf

Stanley Izumigawa, A 100th Inf, 34th

Ivar H. Awes, 151 FA, 34th ID

John Votek, B 168th Inf, 34th ID

Lolace Cordray, 34th ID

Yoshiyuki Sumida, A 100th Inf, 34th

Raymond Nosaka, B 100th Inf, 34th

Edward J. Ipsen, 34th ID

Harold C. Scott, AT, 168th Inf, 34th

Robert Whittet, 34th ID

Norman W. Palus, 34th Inf Div

William W. Bennett, B 133rd 34th

Bernard A. Suchomski, 34th ID

Tatsuo Kawauchi, 100th Inf, 34th

Nagatoshi R. Fujita, C 100th Inf, 34th

Colby Anderson, 1-194 FA, 34th

James DeBellis, B 135th Inf, 34th ID

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Fumi Taniyama, A 100th, 34th ID

Teikichi Higa, B 100th, 34th Inf Div

Raymond F. Lawrence, I Co 133rd

Michael Doi, A 100th, 34th Inf Div

Bunkichi Matsuyoshi, Medic, 34th ID

George "Oscar" Miyashiro, C 100th

Manabu Hongo, C 100th, 34th ID

Willard "Bill" Wallace, 34th Inf Div

Carl C. Roddy, Jr, B 135th, 34th ID

Gerald Galarneau, 34th Inf Div

Frank Heinick, 34th Inf Div

Vincent "Pete" Conners, Co E 168th 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.*

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 <http://www.34ida.org>

Archives & Original Website www.34infdiv.org

68th Planned Reunion 2-3 October 2015, Eagan & Rosemont, MN

Treasurer: LTC (Ret) Mike Musel 515-252-4531

Email: michael.musel@iowa.gov Gold Star Museum

Senior Historian & Archivist: Pat Skelly 508-524-3948

E-mail: skelly@milhist.net

Facebook Webmasters: Ashlee Lolkus, Herman Poggensee

Website Manager: MSG Daniel Ewer sgtdaniel@aol.com

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.flickr.com/iowaRedBulls>

<http://www.twitter.com/IowaRedBulls>

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

2nd BCT: <http://www.facebook.com/IowaRedBulls>

Notice

34th Infantry Division Association Reunion

The 68th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association is scheduled to be held in Eagan and Rosemount, Minnesota on 2-3-4 October, 2015. Both of these cities are in the southern Twin Cities Metro Area.

(Detailed information will be listed in the Spring 2015 34th Inf Div Assn. Newsletter and on the Association WEB Site and Facebook Pages)

The 34th Infantry Division Association's Commanders Own Chapter in Minnesota is scheduled to host the reunion. Events are planned at the Rosemount-based 34th Infantry Division HQs, the Rosemount VFW Post 9433, Fort Snelling and at a hotel in Eagan.

The POC for any questions is:

MAJ Kristen Augé
Commanders Own Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
W: 651-268-8093
C: 952-913-5979
kristen.l.auge.mil@mail.mil

Kasserine (Faid) Pass Survivor Passes

Major (Ret) Vincent "Pete" Conners, was born to Tom and Ann Conners on Dec 23, 1920 in Imogene, Iowa and the youngest of their seven children. He passed away in Dallas, TX on January 16, 2015. He was 94 years old.

He graduated from St. Patrick's high school where he played baseball and tried out for a St Louis Brown's farm team in Kansas City before the war when he joined Co E, 168th Infantry, 34th Infantry Division at Shenandoah, Iowa in late 1940.

During WWII he would fight in North Africa, Sicily and Italy rising rapidly in rank from private to First Sergeant and then receiving his battle field commission of Second Lieutenant and promotion to First Lieutenant during late war fighting near Brenner Pass in Italy.

"Pete" and a couple other soldiers from E Company, 2nd Battalion, 168th, Shenandoah, IA were the only members of the unit that were not killed or captured when Rommel's forces overran the American positions in North Africa*. In addition to his many campaign ribbons where he and his unit spearheaded the invasions in Africa, Sicily and Italy, "Pete" was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor while being wounded severely three times and received three of his eventual four Purple Heart awards and his first Combat Infantry Badge before the war ended in 1945.

Upon returning home, he married Norma Jean Darst in Omaha where his three children were born prior to the outbreak of the Korean war when "Pete" again returned to active duty and after assignments to Ft. Carson, Colorado and Ft. Benning, Georgia was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division where he received his second Combat Infantry Badge and fourth Purple Heart and another Bronze Star before being medivaced to Japan.

After his release from the hospital in 1952 he joined his family and was assigned to the Infantry Center at Ft Riley, Kansas. Pete was given the command of the Heavy Weapons Company in the 87th Infantry when the 10th Infantry Division was shipped to Germany in 1955 where the unit and his family were stationed at Aschaffenberg and then command of the Headquarters Company of the NCO Academy in Munich when he was promoted to Major before returning to the United States in 1958 where he completed the Infantry Officer Advanced Course and served briefly at the Reserve Center in St Louis. Pete was selected as a senior military advisor in the Joint US Military Advisor Group (Thailand) and he and his family arrived in Bangkok in 1961 where Pete would achieve VIP status as the advisor to the Thai's First Infantry Division. Pete Retired as a Major after 23 years of active duty.

Pete worked in the Emergency Operations Centers for Nevada before being hired by the federal government to assist in creating the emergency centers for California and subsequently the training for those involved in emergency response. In 1978, Pete again retired and returned to Iowa. He became active in Veteran of Foreign War activities and was appointed as the Judge Magistrate for Fremont County in 1979 where he continued to serve until his retirement in 1990. Pete and Jean lived in Reno, Nevada for ten years before moving to Texas.

Memorials may be directed to St. Patrick's Catholic Church or Shenandoah American Legion Post 88. Burial with military rites will be held at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Imogene, IA. *(Combat veterans of North Africa Tunisia Campaign refer to the WWII Battle of Kasserine Pass as the Battle of Faid Pass. The Faid Pass is where the 168th Infantry Regiment was actually deployed and made their untimely stand against one of Rommel's Armor Divisions.)



135th Infantry Regiment (First Minnesota)

Lineage (As of Published Date 1953) NG (Mn) (47th Inf Div)

1st Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, organized 27 April 1861 at Fort Snelling, Minn. (Company A, Pioneer Guards, organized 17 April 1856 at St. Paul.) Mustered into Federal service 29 April 1861 for three years. Reorganized April 1864 as 1st Battalion, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Expanded and redesignated 1st Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, 23 February 1865. Mustered out of Federal service 14 July 1865 at Jeffersonville, Ind.

Reorganized 1870 from regimental veteran association as 1st Regiment, Minnesota Enrolled Militia. (Active or volunteer element of Minnesota Enrolled Militia redesignated Minnesota National Guard by Act of Legislature 1 March 1871.) (Regimental organization remained inactive after about 1875, except for St. Paul Light Infantry active 1875-1879.)

Reorganized 1880 as 1st Battalion, M.N.G., to embrace following independent volunteer companies in St. Paul-Minneapolis area: Minneapolis Light Infantry, organized 1879, as Company A; Minneapolis Zouave Corps, organized 1879, as Company B; St. Paul Guards, organized 1879 as Company C; Allen Light Guards, organized 1879 in St. Paul, as Company D. Expanded and redesignated 1883 as 1st Infantry Regiment, M.N.G., with companies as follows: Co A, Minneapolis; Co B, Minneapolis; Co C, St. Paul; Co D, St. Paul; Co E, St. Paul; Co F, Fergus Falls; Co G, Red Wing; Co H, Litchfield; Co I, Minneapolis; Co K, Stillwater. Redesignated 13th Infantry Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers, 4 May 1898 and mustered into Federal service 7 May 1898 at Camp Ramsey, Minn.; mustered out 3 October 1899 at San Francisco, Calif. Reorganized as 1st Infantry Regiment, M.N.G., 27 March 1900.

Mustered into Federal service 30 June 1916 at Fort Snelling, Minn., for Mexican Border; mustered out 14 March 1917. Called into Federal service 25 March 1917 and mustered in 26 March-7 April 1917; drafted in 5 August 1917. Redesignated 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Division, 1 October 1917. Demobilized 18 Feb 1919 at Camp Grant, Ill. (34th Division demobilized 18 February 1919 at Camp Grant, Ill.; reorganized about 1922.) Reorganized as 1st Inf Regt, M.N.G., 31 Jan 1920. Redesignated 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Division, 21 Nov 1921.

Inducted into Federal service 10 February 1941 at Minneapolis. Inactivated 3 November 1945 at Camp Patrick Henry, Va after WWII. Relieved from assignment to 34th Infantry Division and assigned to 47th Infantry Division 19 June 1946. Reorganized, less former companies of 3rd Battalion with Headquarters Federally recognized 23 September 1946 at Mankato.

It was reorganized (less former 3rd Battalion) and Federally recognized on 23 September 1946 with Headquarters at Mankato, Minn. The former 3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry thereafter had a separate lineage. It was ordered into active Federal service on 16 January 1951 at home stations. The 135th Infantry was organized and was Federally recognized on 16 Jan 1953 with HQ's at Mankato, Minn. It was released on 2 Dec 1954 from active Federal service and reverted to state control. Federal recognition was concurrently withdrawn from the 135th Infantry.

The unit was reorganized on 22 February 1959 as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System to consist of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battle Groups, elements of the 47th Infantry Division. On it was reorganized on 1 April 1963 to consist of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Battalions, elements of the 47th Infantry Division. On 1 February 1968 it was reorganized again to consist of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, elements of the 47th Infantry Division. It was withdrawn on 30 Nov 1988 from the CARS and reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System. 1st and 2nd Battalions, 135th Infantry were relieved on 10 February 1991 from assignment to the 47th Inf Div and assigned to the 34th Inf Div. The 135th Infantry was reorganized on 1 Sep 1992 to consist of the 2nd Battalion, an element of the 34th Infantry Division. Initially assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division as an air assault infantry battalion, the unit was eventually reassigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

Co B, 2-135 IN ordered to Fed Service at Ft. McCoy, WI 16 Jan 2001 for Operation Desert Spring III, Saudi Arabia. Released 7 July, 2001. 2-135 IN Ordered to Fed Service 10 Oct, 2003 for Service in Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom. Released 9 Oct, 2004. Co D 2-135 IN Ordered to Fed Service 5 Mar, 2004 for Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan. Released 31 Aug, 2005. Co's A & C Ordered to Fed Service 6 Sep, 2005 for service in Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Distinctive Unit Insignia (Crest) of the 135th Infantry Regiment

Home Area

Southern Minnesota

Campaign Streamers

Civil War Virginia 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, Bull Run, Peninsula, Valley, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Petersburg

War with Spain Manila

Philippine Insurrection Luzon San Isidro

World War I (Without Inscription)

World War II

Tunisia Rome Arno Naples Foggia

Po Valley North Apennines Anzio

War on Terror (Campaign Credits Pending)

Decorations

Fr CdeG with Palm embroidered BELVEDERE (WD GO 24, 1947)

Coat of Arms

Shield. Argent, on a saltier azure between in chief a fleur-de-lis gules, in fess the Corps badge of 2nd Div, VIII Army Corps, during the War with Spain proper (two white circles overlapping resembling the figure "8") fringed of the third, and two bolos saltier wise and in base a bull's skull of the like.

Crest. That for the regiments and battalions of the Minnesota National Guard: On a wreath of colors (argent and azure) a sheaf of wheat proper.

Motto: To the Last Man.

LTC Simon Schaefer, Commander

CSM Chris A. Stroner, Command Sgt. Maj.

Current Organization

2-135 IN: HHC Mankato and Owatonna; A Co West St. Paul; B Co Rochester; C Co Winona; and D Co Albert Lea; and 1135th CSC in Ardin Hills.

This lineage document is an extract of The Army Lineage Book, Volume II: Infantry, dtd 1953, prepared at the Office, Chief of Mil History, with locally update to the present.

(Continued)

Units Released 29 Sep, 2007.

A & C awarded Meritorious Unit Commendations.

2-135 IN (-) ordered to Fed Service 15 Jul, 2007 for Operation Enduring Freedom, Kosovo. Released 17 Aug, 2008. 2-135 IN Ordered to Fed Service 11 May, 2011 for Opn Enduring Freedom Kuwait/Iraq. Released 14 May, 2012.



President	CSM Willie Adams
1 st Vice President	LTC Tim Sulzner
2 nd Vice President	Randall Stanford
1 Year Trustees	Mark Zirkelbach Ron Albrecht, Past Pres MAJ Jason Burley CSM Joel Arnold
2 Year Trustees	Hermann Poggensee LTC Scott Keeley BG Ben Corell SSG Tanner Johnson
3 Year Trustees	SFC James Sherril Dr. Chris White MSG Daniel Ewer Ken Andresen
Past President	COL Steve Osborn
Secretary	Russell Bierl
Treasurer	Michael Musel
Information Officer	SFC Ashlee Lolkus
Sr. Historian/Archive Mgr	Pat Skelly
Website Manager	MSG Daniel Ewer
Sergeant- at- Arms- Chaplain	Jim Berg 1LT Nathan Perry

Purpose of the 34th Infantry Division Association (Short Version)

- Maintain association with our comrades with whom we served in the 34th Infantry Division.
- Maintain and honor the memory of those who died in action and remember all of us who pass later.
- Gather and maintain the History of the Organizations, Units and Soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division.
- **Support our “Wounded Warriors”** who have faithfully served our nation.

34th Infantry Division Association Internet and Facebook Sites

We ask that all members and friends of the 34th Infantry Division view our Web Site and Face Book pages for information updates. The 34th Inf Div Association gives a “Big Thank You” to Ashlee Lolkus, 34th Div HQ’s, CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee and MSG Daniel Ewer for updates to Face Book pages.

The URL for the 34th Inf Div Assn. national page is:
www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc

The URL for the Des Moines Chapter 34th ID page is:
www.facebook.com/34IDAssocDesMoinesChapter

The URL for the Minnesota Cmdr’s Own Chapter is
www.facebook.com/commandersownredbullassociation

We encourage all Red Bull Soldiers who have a Face - book account to log on and share their stories with friends who share their common interests.

Pat Skelly, the Association Senior Historian and Archivist continues to make archival posts at the site:
<http://www.34infdiv.org>

Pat is well respected for his detailed work has done much to bring together WWII and War on Terror archive documents for veterans, their families and historians of the 88th and 34th Infantry Divisions as well as other allied units.

MSG Daniel Ewer is completing the architecture of the new Association Web Site, 34IDA.org The site was launched at the 2014 Reunion. Please continue to watch the new Web page as it develops.

The Web Site for the actual MTOE 34th Inf Div is:
www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id/



Danny Quinn - Passed Away in Oct

Danny Quinn passed away from this world on Oct 30, 2014. He was born on January 23, 1959 in Suffern, NY. He had entertained the 34th Infantry Div Assn. Tri- State Chapter and at the National 34th Infantry Division National Reunion in Carlisle, PA.

Danny Quinn has been a performer of Irish & American folk music for nearly three decades. He has entertained throughout the U.S., Canada, Ireland and England at concerts, coffee houses, corporate events and pubs. Danny’s style of music and performance was always tailored to his audience. Danny was a personal friend of many in the 34th Infantry Division Association soldiers over the years and will be especially missed by Pat Skelly, the Senior Historian for the National Association.

Wounded Warriors who were recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center will remember Danny Quinn, as he spent many days as a volunteer working entertain recovering soldiers. We thank him for his service to our soldiers at the medical center. RIP Danny!

34th Army Band & 34th Division Band AWARDED FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE FOR WWII SERVICE

The Iowa National Guard's 34th Army Band, based in Fairfield, Iowa, and the Minnesota 34th Infantry Division Band were presented the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, a battle streamer the units earned during its campaigns of World War II, but was never formally awarded. The oversight was recently discovered during a **routine review of the unit's lineage and honors**. The presentation was held separately for each unit in Iowa and Minnesota.

The French Croix de Guerre with Palm is a Division-level award instituted on April 8, 1915 by the French government to recognize acts of bravery in the face of the enemy. The 34th Army Band originally received the award under Decision No. 843, on June 21, 1945 by the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, with the following citation: **"An elite Division, whose loyal and efficient cooperation with the French divisions, which begun in Tunisia, was gloriously continued throughout the Italian campaign.**

During the operations of Belvedere, the 34th Infantry Division, despite the difficulties of the moment, displayed the most courageous actions in support of the operations of the 3rd Algerian Division," which was a colonial division in the French Army.

During action in World War II, the band fought in campaigns at Tunisia (North Africa), Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley (Italy). Prior to 1 Jan 1944, each Infantry Regiment, 133rd, 135th and the 168th was organized with a separate band. On the January 1944 date, all regimental bands were reorganized to one Divisional Band.

Today's 34th Infantry Division Band traces its lineage to the 1st Infantry Band, (Minnesota National Guard) organized in April 30, 1900. The unit was redesignated the 135th Infantry Band in 1917 for Federal service in WWI as part of the 34th Infantry Division.

The 135th was activated in 1941 for service in WWII. The 135th Infantry Band arrived in Ireland in 1942 and earned the distinction of being the first U.S. band to play in the European Theater of Operations.

The 133rd Infantry Band (Iowa Army National Guard) was deployed to Africa and Italy as part of the 34th Infantry Division. The 133rd earned the distinction of landing with the first contingent of U.S. troops in early 1942 as a part of the Allied Expeditionary Force and became known as the "Oldest Band" in the European Theater of Operations.

On Jan. 1, 1944 the 135th Infantry Band (Minnesota Army National Guard) was combined with the 133rd Infantry Band, and 168th Infantry Regimental Band (Iowa Army National Guard) to create the 34th Infantry Division Band.

After the war, when National Guard units were restarted and given Federal Recognition, the 34th Infantry Division Band was again activated in Fairfield, Iowa on 21 Nov 1946. The unit kept that designation until Oct 1968, when the 34th Division was inactivated. At that time the Iowa 34th Division Band became the 34th Army Band, and remains so today. When the 34th Division was reactivated in 1991, to replace the 47th Infantry Division, the 34th Infantry Division Band was redesignated in Rosemount, MN.

Information taken from Press Releases of MN and IA National Guard, please contact Col. Greg Hapgood, Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer at (515) 252-4582 or COL Kevin Olsen, Minnesota National Guard Public, 651-282-4410.





This article is an extract of The Red Bulletin • Vol. 1, No. 8 • May 12, 1945 • of the original Red Bulletin. The "combat newspaper of the 34th Infantry Division was published weekly from March 17, 1945, thru Sep 28, 1945.

500 Germans Surrendered to 135th Infantry Regiment Billeting Party

Billetees Run Into 24 Hour Battle

A billeting party from an infantry battalion in regimental reserve set out for the town of Caorso, Italy not far from the Po River, but instead of billeting the result was a battle that lasted intermittently for 24 hours. At its conclusion 500 Germans surrendered en masse. Two officers and four enlisted men of the 1st Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment, entered the town as a billeting detail and received a warm greeting from the population. The acting mayor made a speech. The people were convinced that the Germans had fled.

Germans Heading for Town

The situation sobered rapidly when Germans were sighted heading for the town. It later developed that a pocket of a considerable number of Germans was in the rear of the battalion and attempting to force its way through to their own lines. "A fire fight started immediately," Capt. William R. Howard, Skiatook, Okla., said. "And it grew hotter as more of our men came into town and the Germans continued to fight." With Capt. Howard on the billeting party were 1st Lt. George N. Johnston, of Hartford, Conn.; S-Sgt. Wayne B. Kief; of Montevideo, Minn.; T-Sgt. Edward B. Cibiras, of Chicago, Ill., and Pfc. Alfred A. Gianpaola, of Detroit, Mich.

Knocks Out German 88mm Gun

"We had no communication with regiment by wire," Sgt. Cibiras said. "And when the Germans controlled part of the road cutting us off, it didn't look so good." One soldier from Company C, Pfc. Roland P. Dumont, Biddleford, Maine, distinguished himself by knocking out a German 88mm gun drawn by a half track. "They were trying to get the gun through by the side of the town," he said. "I was about 50 yards away by a wall and grabbed a rifle with a launcher from another man. I thought the pin had been removed but it wasn't, so the first grenade just bounced off the half track. But I made sure of the next. It hit the half track in the rear and it started to burn. Then the ammunition exploded."

Kill 5, Wound 2, Capture 3

After Dumont hit the vehicle his companions opened fire on the Germans who were riding on the half track and the 88. They killed five, wounded two and captured three. One man escaped. Those who routed the crew were Pfc. William E. Engelman, of Celina, Ohio, and Marvin H Epps, of Emporia, Va., and S-Sgt. Elmer G. Firestone, of Reading, Pa. Shortly before midnight three medium German tanks, with infantrymen riding them, attempted to pass by the town. By this time tank support had arrived for the battalion and the crews of the Shermans waited until the enemy was practically within point blank range, fired and destroyed all three. Six German personnel carriers were captured, a Mark IV tank was taken intact, and one scout car was captured and another knocked out. Several other personnel carriers were destroyed as well as a German kitchen wagon. In another engagement with a German tank, 2nd Lt. Donald Albertson, of N. Dak., killed three Germans riding on the vehicle. Albertson recently was awarded the Silver Star and received a battlefield commission. The battalion was having its casualties, too. Several men were wounded and one was killed.

March Out to Surrender

By morning of the next day more than 50 prisoners had been taken and combat patrols, searching the nearby area in the daylight hours, kept adding to the total until it reached the 200 figure. Although some Germans got through, apparently they considered their plight in the rear of the battalion hopeless. In the afternoon 500 Germans, headed by two officers on horseback, and marching in two columns of four, marched out to surrender.

They were met by Capt. James F. Garfield, of 5236 Humboldt Ave., South, Minneapolis, Minn., the battalion executive officer. Capt. Garfield, riding in a jeep, escorted them before Lt. Col. James E. Tyler, of Woodcliff Lake, N. J., the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion.

34th Inf Div HQ's "Will Not" Deploy to Africa

Deployment To Africa Called Off

The Department of Defense announced on Jan 24th that the 34th Infantry Division HQ's and soldiers from 11 other states "will not" deploy for a six month period in the spring of 2015, as earlier planned, to support the U.S. Ebola response operations in West Africa. Their specific mission was to synchronize the operations, logistics, personnel and resources of the U.S. military forces assigned to the area. The U.S. soldiers going to West Africa would have provided the command and control of U.S. military forces deployed as part of Operation United Assistance (OUA), the military effort supporting the United States Agency for International Development's response to the Ebola virus outbreak in Liberia and Monrovia.

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (5) 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
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- () 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.34ida.org> 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 _____	\$ 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 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		

Books Available:

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

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