

# 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Johnston, IA 50131

Association WEB Page:  
www.34infdiv.org



Winter 2014 Issue -  
The 34<sup>th</sup> ID Assn. newsletter is  
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## 34th Inf Div Change of Command

**ROSEMOUNT, Minn.** - In a ceremony rich with military tradition, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division command was passed at the Rosemount National Guard Armory, Dec. 7. The occasion marks the beginning of a new era in 34th Red Bull Infantry Division history.

Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt assumed command of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division from Maj. Gen. David Elicerio who held the position since November 2010. The Change of Command ceremony symbolized the official transfer of individual authority and responsibility of an organization from the outgoing to the incoming commander.

"Under Elicerio's command, our time-tested reputation for excellence was maintained in a splendid fashion, thanks to the hard work and dedication of nearly 23,000 Citizen-Soldiers aligned for training across eight different states," said Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, the Minnesota National Guard adjutant general, who was the presiding officer for the ceremony. "It is now General Loidolt's opportunity to lead our exceptional men and women as the Red Bulls prepare to enter a century of service to our state and nation."

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division will celebrate its 100th Birthday in 2017.

"It is not lost on me that I am taking command of a storied Army division," said Loidolt, alum of St. Cloud State University and Hamline University School of Law. "Formed by Citizen-Soldiers from Minnesota, Iowa and other plains states in 1917, the "Sandstorm Division," as it was known then, laid a foundation that would shape the future of our nation's military.

"I am both humbled and proud ... to be considered worthy to lead this great division and its great Soldiers," he said as he ended his speech. "The challenges and opportunities before us are great and we are ready to excel."



**Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, If, passes the 34th Infantry Division colors to its new commander Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt at the Rosemount Minnesota National Guard Armory on December 7th. The outgoing commander is Maj Gen David Elicerio.**

During the ceremony, Elicerio spoke of the many accomplishments celebrated and also the challenges endured by the division over the time of his command. Additionally, he spoke of the current preparedness of its Soldiers and the challenges that lie ahead.

"There are many challenges that face us as we move forward into the coming years," he cautioned. "Force structure adjustments, shrinking budgets, resiliency in the force ... the list goes on. In this, the division is lucky to have the right person in Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt to lead them in a turbulent time ... The Soldiers of this division will be lead by the best for the foreseeable future."

The official party also included Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Richard Nash and Chap. (Maj.) Michael Crawford. Attending the event was the tenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Vessey (former WW II Red Bull), First Army Commander Lt. Gen. Michael Tucker, Maj. Gen. Harry Sieben, Maj. Gen. Jerry Lang, representatives for U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, Minn. Sec. of State Mark Ritchie and Rosemount Mayor Bill Droste.

Loidolt joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1984 and served in numerous senior staff positions and commanded troop units at the company, battalion and brigade levels, according to Lt. Col. Kevin A. Olson, Minnesota National Guard's public affairs director. He is a two-time combat veteran deploying to Iraq in 2006 as the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office's deputy director of operations and again in 2009 as the United States Division - South Chief of Staff. *By SFC Ashlee Lolkus, 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs*



**From l-r, event Master of Ceremonies, Col. Eric Kerska, incoming 34th Infantry Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Neal Loidolt, Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, outgoing division commander Maj. Gen. David Elicerio, and Chap. (Maj.) Michael Crawford.**

Greetings to the RED BULL TEAM!

Happy New Year and best wishes to all for a safe, peaceful, and prosperous 2014. With the holidays behind us, we start to focus on change and renewal as we look forward to less chaos and warmer weather.

As an organization, we continue to focus on the association's core purpose while striving to address the challenges that come with a rapidly changing world. The Association strives to preserve the history of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division, maintain association with those who have served, and share the experiences and accounts of past and present Red Bulls. The Association continues to provide updates and information regarding the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Soldiers, and alumni through social media, our internet web site, and periodic newsletters. Moreover, the annual Association Reunion remains our prime event for communicating, sharing information, and conducting business while honoring our past and having a good time with friends, old and new.

As we move forward into 2014, we must actively seek out and welcome new Red Bulls to the Association, clearly defining the purpose of the organization while recognizing the changing culture and motivations of younger generations. We must continue to leverage multiple networks and systems to communicate and share information, while pursuing greater involvement at key events. Our expectations are simple; communicate, stay connected, share your story, and invite others to do the same. Our future as an organization in this rapidly changing world is dependent on understating these expectations and keeping focused on our core purpose

I would like recognize and extend congratulations to BG Craig Bargfrede on his recent retirement from the Minnesota Army National Guard. BG Bargfrede's career spanned nearly 34 years of service with both the Minnesota Army National Guard and Iowa Army National Guard including numerous assignments within the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. BG Bargfrede retired as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Finally, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 67<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association on 4-5 October at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, Iowa. I hope to see a great turnout in support of the Association, the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and our many great Soldiers and alumni.

ATTACK!

Steve Osborn  
President, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
stephen.e.osborn.mil@mail.mil

### 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Final Roll Call

Paul Jacobus, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Oran W. Craig, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Greg N. Riewer, A 136<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Michael Mettelle, A 134<sup>th</sup> BSB, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
James M. Wosika, Jr, B 136<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Nicholas D. Turcotte, A 135<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Bryan T. McDonough, B 136<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Corey Rystad, B 136<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Joshua R. Hanson, A 136<sup>th</sup> Inf  
Kyle R. Miller 1-125 FA, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Brent W. Koch, E 136<sup>th</sup> Inf  
David F. Day, 1-151 FA, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Jesse M. Lhotka, 1-151 FA,  
Jason G. Timmerman, 1-151 FA  
Tad T. Hervas, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
James R. McGaffin, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Sigwel Wood, F 133<sup>rd</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Russell Nelson, F 168<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Waldon H. Johnson, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Carroll Baber, A 133<sup>rd</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Charles Wise, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Jack R. Yepsen, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Seiso Kamishita, F 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Aaron M. Windschitl, 1-168 Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Yukio Tanji, B 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Gordon Kadowaki, HQ 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Akira Akimoto, HQ 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Stanley Bilski, A 135<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Kermit Johnson, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
John Suchor, Sr, 3-135<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
William L. Hastie, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Morris Ingram, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Junior A Genzlinger, 109 QM, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Yoshiaki Tobarra, B 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Tom Tsuda, B 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Ben Matsui, B 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Hollis H. Cluck, 135<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> 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-34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,  
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Association Website [www.34infdiv.org](http://www.34infdiv.org)

Web Site Manager Pat Skelly & Asst. MSG Daniel Ewer

**67<sup>th</sup> Planned Reunion** 4-5 October 2014, Johnston, IA

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

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**Facebook Webmasters**

SFC Ashlee Lolkus, Herman Poggensee

Follow the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc> <http://www.34infdiv.org>

Also, follow Red Bulls at:

34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division: <http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id>

1<sup>st</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team: <http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls>

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team: <http://www.facebook.com/IowaRedBulls> <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

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

**Words from the 34<sup>th</sup> ID Association Chaplain  
CPT Skip Manus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde Cbt Team**

*“The strongest oak of the forest is not the one that is protected from the storm and hidden from the sun. It’s the one that stands in the open where it is compelled to struggle for its existence against the winds and rains and the scorching sun.”*  
-Napoleon Hill

Many years have come and gone over the course of our War on Terror. The Red Bulls have remained vigilant and ready to stand in the gap on behalf of our nations citizens. However, some have begun a season of reset. Many warriors need to physically recover from several years of high tempo training and deployments, some soldiers are working on the dynamics of what we call “the new normal”. Many are simply trying to make sense of their experience in a time of war.

How do I move forward from here? Do our trials have purpose? James 1:3-4, “*Knowing this that the trying of your faith works patience – but let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*” He is talking about the ability to keep on keeping on, the ability to hang in there, the ability to stay under pressure, the ability to stay until the purpose is accomplished. God wants you to grow. There are two ways God makes us to become like Jesus: (1) through the Word of God which builds our character and matures us (2) through the circumstances of life.

As much as we love smooth waters, an old proverb states that smooth waters do not make skillful sailors. In this journey called life, the question is not, “Will storms arise?” Rather, What type of person will I be when the next storm arises? Advanced life skills are needed to navigate these sometimes treacherous waters.

God desires the very best for you and your family. God also wants to navigate you through the storms of life.

-Chaplain CPT Skip Manus



**Wreaths Across America**

Shown is the photo taken at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. Members of the Des Moines Chapter of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. helped support the placing wreaths on each of the over 1,300 tomb stones at the cemetery on Dec 7th, 2013. This is an annual event that that the Des Moines Chapter hopes to continue to support each year with labor and dollars.

The mission of the Wreaths Across America is:

To Remember, Honor, & Teach about the service and sacrifices of our veterans, active military, and their families. We will Never Forget.

\*Remember the fallen who gave up their tomorrows with family and loved ones, so that we can enjoy our todays...

\*Honor those who serve, the men and women of the armed forces who put themselves in harm's way to...

\*Teach our children about the freedoms we enjoy each day, and they great cost at which they were...

The coordinator for the State of Iowa was Vietnam War Veteran, Patrick Palmersheim, who had served as Director of Iowa Veterans Affairs.

Each state has a Wreaths Across America director. The WEB site for the non-profit is---

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)



# Do Ab: The Largest Red Bull Battle Since WWII

By Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson  
Task Force Red Bulls Public Affairs Office

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – It was the largest battle fought by Soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division since World War II.

The battle, on May 25, 2011, involved about 40 American Soldiers from the Recon Platoon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and six Soldiers assigned to Company C, both of 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, as well as about 20 of their Afghan counterparts.

Yet this small group of Soldiers, from Task Force Ironman, was able to thwart an ambush from an enemy force numbering in the hundreds, killing more than 200 insurgent fighters in an intense battle lasting about seven hours. The Soldiers involved said the most amazing part of the whole conflict, though, was that there was not one coalition forces casualty.

“Everybody there in uniform stepped up and did exactly what they’re supposed to do,” U.S. Army Capt. Garrett Gingrich, the commander of Co. C, 1st Bn., 133rd Inf. Regt., from Dysart, Iowa, and one of six C Co. Soldiers who participated in the battle, said. “Everybody did their job and it was just an amazing, miraculous thing that nobody (from the coalition) got hurt.”

“All I can figure is there was somebody watching over us,” U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Luke Chatfield, C Co.’s joint fires observer from Floyd, Iowa, added. The battle took place in the northern part of the Nuristan Province, about 15 miles north of Forward Operating Base Kalagush in the village of Do Ab.

“What some people don’t realize is that not every piece of land in our area of operation is reachable by ground or on daily operations,” U.S. Army 1st Lt. Justin Foote, platoon leader of the Reconnaissance Platoon, HHC, 1st Bn., 133rd Inf. Regt., said. “This was the premier case of that. None of our guys had ever pushed up to Do Ab, and it had been two-to-three years since any coalition forces had been up there.”

U.S. Army Maj. Aaron Baugher, the battalion operations officer and the battle’s senior ground forces commander, explained how Task Force Ironman Soldiers wound up in Do Ab.

“There is a district center in Do Ab, which would compare to a county courthouse back in the States,” Baugher explained. “There is also a police headquarters building and a small clinic.”

“The reports we received were that the Do Ab Afghan Uniform Police were attacked by 400 insurgents and the district center and police observation posts were overrun. There wasn’t a lot of information. Initially our job was to seize back the district center, however, the mission eventually changed to securing the landing zone and some high ground and getting in to a position where we could cover a team of Afghan commandos and U.S. forces so that they could go ahead and clear Do Ab.”

What Baugher did know was that it was 8 a.m., and higher HQ’s had given him until 10 a.m. to get some troops to Do Ab to determine what the situation in Do Ab really was.

Baugher summoned the Reconnaissance Platoon, as well as Gingrich and his team from C Co., who immediately flew down to Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam from Kalagush to meet up with the Recon Platoon.

“They said to be at the flight line in 45 minutes, packed for three days, and that’s about all we heard at first,” U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeremy Buhr, the sniper section leader with Recon Platoon from Waverly, Iowa, recalled. “At the flight line, we found out a little more, that the DC had been taken over by Taliban.

(Continued page 5)



The Reconnaissance Platoon of Headquarters Company, 1st Bn, 133rd Inf Regt, seek cover and return fire near the village of Do Ab, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, after Air Assaulting into the valley May 25, 2011. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Cunningham, Reconnaissance Platoon, HQ’S & HQ’S Co. 1st Battalion, 133rd Inf Regt)

Intelligence is sometimes a little skewed and sometimes when they say 400 insurgent fighters they mean more like 50-75, but when we got up there ... I can believe that number. We'd definitely never seen anywhere near the number of enemy fighters that we saw at Do Ab."

A little after 10 a.m. Baugher, Foote and his men and Gingrich's team, all boarded two U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters to fly to Do Ab.

The two helicopters landed about 300 meters apart, one to the North one to the South. The platoon said they were tactically in one of the worst possible spots to be ambushed from upon landing, but it was the only suitable landing zone in the area.

"We saw the terrain we were headed into out the window and it was really, really steep," Buhr recalled. "Physically the slopes were straight up. It was maybe 150 meters wide east to west in a riverbed; the worst terrain I had ever seen.

We could literally only move north toward the district center or south. I remember thinking this is the worst place in the world to land a helicopter, but it was the only place to land."

The Recon Platoon Soldiers said this was the worst terrain they had ever faced, "hands down." They also said it was the ultimate place for an enemy ambush, which is exactly what happened. Once in the valley, they faced immediate fire from machine guns and RPG's.

"As soon as we got off the (helicopter), we took indirect fire from mortars, small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades," U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Cunningham, an infantry scout with Recon Platoon recalled.

"The first explosion I heard was an airburst RPG that was aimed at the Chinook, and it was really close," Buhr said. "Every weapons system that the Taliban uses was probably fired at us that day!" There was nothing to do but seek cover and return fire, the Soldiers said.

"My chalk exited and the first thing we did was immediately run to whatever cover we could find, which ended up being two rocks separated by maybe 30 meters," U.S. Army Sgt. Edward Kane, an infantry team leader, said. "You could run north and south, but the cover was sparse."

Another problem the Soldiers said they faced was the fact that the enemy was up so high, they were able to use what is known as plunging fire to shoot over their cover.



NURISTAN PROVINCE - U.S. Army Soldiers with the Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 133rd Inf Regt, seek cover and return fire near the village of Do Ab, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, after air assaulting into the valley May 25, 2011. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Cunningham)

We were in one of the worst positions imaginable. "So we laid down suppressive fire on all the enemy locations and tried to establish fire superiority, using direct fires, sniper fires, indirect fires with our mortar team," Foote said.

Within ten minutes, Apache helicopters also were in the fight, but the enemy continued to attack. "I made the call that we needed cover and needed to move to a series of animal pens to the north," Baugher said. "It was the best cover available – other than that we were sitting on the LZ with some boulders just trying to find cover there with bullets bouncing all around."

The close air support forces were able to give the Recon Platoon enough of a break in the action via fire superiority to allow the Soldiers to reach the animal pens without much resistance, Foote said.

For six hours the Soldiers fought off the enemy. Meanwhile, the enemy continued to swarm around them in the mountains above, slowly drawing nearer to their positions in the animal pens. The Soldiers did not know it at the time, but the enemy had fortified fighting positions: trenches dug into solid rock.

The Soldiers said they continued to fight, but as the enemy drew closer, air assets started to make the difference in the battle.

(continued on page 6 )

The joint terminal attack controllers, U.S. Air Force Airmen who communicate with Army and Air Force aircraft from the ground, left their cover to get information from the Soldiers as to where the rounds were coming from.

"Everybody started helping out the JTACs, calling out distance and direction and stuff," Buhr said. The JTAC used the information to target the enemy positions and called in close air support.

Meanwhile, the Soldiers in the animal pens continued to fight and kill the enemy, but the insurgent forces were continuing to draw nearer. Their shots also became more accurate. A sniper fired within inches of some of the members from Recon Platoon in one of the pens.

"There was a doorway they were zeroed in on, and we took sniper fire throughout the whole night," U.S. Army Spc. Aaron McNew, a machine gunner from Cedar Falls, Iowa, said. "We were surrounded 360-degrees and each squad was fighting their own separate fight at this point."

Foote said the platoon pushed out a squad to an eastern ridgeline which immediately took enemy fire. "I wasn't up there more than about ten minutes when I started taking fire from about 25 meters away," Kane said. "I don't think they knew we were there, but they were just trying to shoot in our general direction."

"It got to the point where we dropped bombs literally 250 meters from our position because we had the enemy that close," Baugher said. Dropping massive bombs that close to U.S. forces, just outside the bomb's maximum effective range, left no room for error by the JTAC or the pilots, and was a difficult decision to make, U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Tavis Delaney, a JTAC with the 116<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron, WA Air National Guard, said.

"We held them off and the JTACs dropped bombs, and we dropped mortars," Cunningham, who said he shot more than 500 rounds out of his machine gun, said. "When it hit, we felt the concussion, and rocks rained down on us."

The Soldiers of the Recon Platoon said the bombs were necessary, and made the difference in the battle. "If they hadn't been there dropping bombs, I don't know that we would have gotten out of that valley alive," Kane said. "Their fire was getting closer and more accurate."

"If you looked at just the munitions we dropped, you can see how this was easily the biggest single engagement the division has been in since World War II," Baugher said.

During the operation, close air-support used 500-pound bombs, 105mm and 40mm cannon rounds from an AC-130 gunship, Hellfire missiles, and rockets from the rocket pods. The 133<sup>rd</sup> Inf Soldiers expended thousands of rounds.

Chatfield said the efforts of the pilots were also crucial to helping save the lives of the infantry fighters on the ground. "I give a lot of credit to the pilots, both rotary and fixed wing," Chatfield said. "They came in under fire each time we needed them to and they were getting shot at and still were able to get on target. We had fixed wing come down the valley lower than any fixed wing I've ever seen before, and they were getting shot at, but they didn't care."

After Recon Platoon and Gingrich's small group of Soldiers had fended off the enemy through six hours of fighting, the Afghan commandos and additional American forces finally arrived in two Chinooks around 7 p.m.

"There was a burst from an RPG about 10 meters from where the Chinook was going to land, so it was close," Baugher said. The Recon Platoon provided cover for the Commandos and American forces while they cleared the Do Ab District Center. After a final burst of enemy resistance, the battle was over, almost as suddenly as it had begun.

"They got fire for about another hour and a half, and then there was total silence," Baugher said. "We found out later that it was the fact that the remaining insurgents had broken contact and fled. The Apaches, and AC-130 gunship had dropped a final heavy series of bombs, causing them to finally flee. We spent the next two days securing the district center and doing some patrols through the villages."

It has been a long year of fighting the enemy for the Soldiers of Recon Platoon. But there is one thing they could all say definitively about the battle at Do Ab. "Nothing was comparable to this fight," Foote said. "Nothing!"

### **Commanders & Leaders**

COL Ben Corell, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div

Major Aaron Baugher 133 INF S3

Captain Garrett Gingrich C-133 INF

1LT Justin Foote 133 INF

SFC Steve Beireis 133 INF

SSG Nicholas Rossin 133 INF

SSG Joseph Williams 133 INF

SSG J Winkowski 133 INF





This article is an extract of Vol. 1, No. 5, April 14, 1945 of the original Red Bulletin. The "combat newspaper" of the 34th Infantry Division was published weekly in Italy from March 17, 1945, thru Sep 28, 1945. The 34th Infantry Division returned home to the United States after 44 months in Europe and North Africa.

## **34th Completes 500th Combat Day April 16, 1945**

### **Red Bull Is Still Snortin' and Pawin'**

The 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division will complete its 500th day of combat Monday, April 16th- and the old Red Bull is still snortin' and Pawin the earth!

The first American division to go to Europe after Pearl Harbor, elements of the 34th made the initial allied landings in North Africa Nov 8, 1942 as part of the Eastern Assault Force, commanded by Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, then 34th Division Commander.

In releasing its record of 500 days in combat, the 34th counts only those periods of time during which the Division was in command of a sector and component units were committed to combat. Some of the original infantry and artillery men, who supported other Allied forces in both North Africa and Italy, have more that 600 days of fighting the Germans to their credit.

### **LARGE TURNOVER**

There has been a large turnover in personnel, due to casualties, rotation and transfers to rear units during the 500 days of combat, and few original members of the infantry outfits who came overseas in January, February and April 1942, are still with the Division. Percentage of "old timers" in artillery and service units is greater but faces are changing every day.

The fighting "Red Bull" organization received its baptism of fire at Algiers when

elements of the Division assaulted the North African beaches.

### **DREW FIRST BLOOD**

After the surrender of Algiers (by the French) to Gen. Ryder, advanced elements of the Division were detached and moved from Algiers to fight along side other Allied forces. Thus the 34th Division, as a unified team, did not begin its long slugging match with the Krauts until February, 1943, in the vicinity of Pichon-El Ala, although one artillery battalion (175 FA) drew first blood for American cannoneers this side of the Atlantic on Nov 17, 1942, and the 168<sup>th</sup> Inf Regiment marked its first important action with the capture of Sened Station on Jan 31 1943.

From February until May 11, 1943, when the Tunisian campaign came to an end, the 34th Division cornered the enemy and beat him at Abeltla and Hadjeb el Aion in open, fluid warfare and at Fondouk Gap, Hill 609 and Eddekhila in mountainous terrain and close combat.

### **WITH ASSAULT WAVES**

The Division was in Army reserve for the Salerno operation but the 151st Field Artillery Battalion landed with the assault waves, and for eight days shot it out with the Germans and fired more rounds than during the entire Tunisian campaign.

A Division task force made its first contact with the enemy on Europe's mainland on Sept. 28, 1943, near Montemarano, Italy. Now fighting with Fifth Army, the Red Bulls captured Benevento in early October. Infantrymen had advanced 40 miles in five days to score the first of the Division's great successes in Europe.

### **MAJOR SUCCESSES**

These successes included three crossings of the Volturno River, capture of bloody Mt. Pantano, clearing of San Vittore, Cervaro, storming of Cassino, breakout from the Anzio Beachhead and pursuit through Rome to Civitavecchia, conquest of Cecina and Rosignano, the liberation of Leghorn and the assault on the vaulted Gothic Line.

During the Volturno-Mt. Pantano operations, the 34th Division was in contact with the enemy for 76 consecutive days.

# 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn.
- ( ) Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my donation to the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association is to preserve the history of the 34<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.iowanationalguard.com)

## Museum Store - 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn Price List – Dec 2013

34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 22.00	34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Div Insignia Pins (Lapel Pin)	\$ 5.00
34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull T-Shirt Size _____	\$15.00	Red Bull Patch (Black & Red)	\$ 5.00
34 <sup>th</sup> Div Red Bull Ball Cap	\$12.00	34 <sup>th</sup> Div Red Bull Neck Tie	\$15.00
34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Window Decal	\$2.00	34 <sup>th</sup> Div Red Bull Flag (3X5')	\$65.00
34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Jacket Size _____	\$30.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$ 2.00
34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00		
34 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Coin (3" dia. X 1/4" – Scene 168 <sup>th</sup> INF - Winter Line Fighting Italy front & inscription – back)			\$25.00
<u>Books Available:</u>			
Dogfaces Who Smiled Through Tears (The 34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Infantry Division in WWII)			\$30.00
Citizen Soldier in WWII (Story of the 168 <sup>th</sup> 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**  
**7105 NW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave, Camp Dodge, Bldg 3692**  
**Johnston, IA 50131**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [lowagoldstarmuseum@iowa.gov](mailto:lowagoldstarmuseum@iowa.gov) or Call 515-252-4531 if you have a question.