

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

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

Winter 2017 Issue -  
The 34<sup>th</sup> ID Assn. newsletter is  
published three times a year.

Association WEB Page:  
www.34ida.org



## “The Roaring Bull”

### 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Division in the Global War on Terror

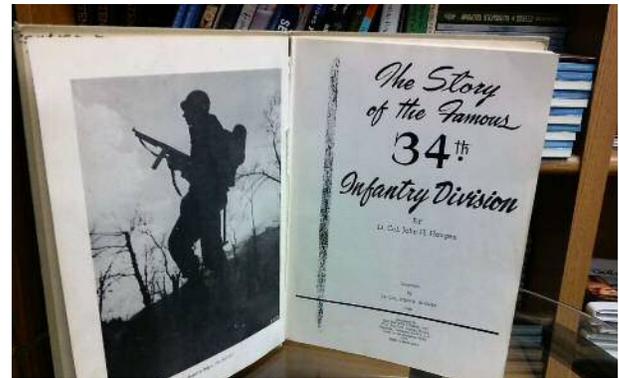
“You could actually see your feces move.” That was not a statement I was expecting to hear in my interviews of soldiers for the book “Roaring Bull: The 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror.” A CSM today, the soldier speaking was a Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the 194<sup>th</sup> Infantry Detachment (LRS) on the 2004 Iraq deployment. Coming out of the primitive living conditions in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, along the Iranian border, every soldier in his detachment had to be de-wormed. That was early in my research for this book—it would be the first of many eye-opening experiences I was to relive with the soldiers of the 34<sup>th</sup> ID.

As a life-long student of history, especially military history, I feel that the very best of non-fiction military writing has two central qualities: it stands as a testament to the truth of what happened and, as much as possible, it is from the mouths of those who did the hard, dirty, painful, boring, terrifying work of war. That standard was not hard to maintain while interviewing the men and women of the 34<sup>th</sup> ID who have borne the battle against terrorism since 2001. Articulate, passionate, enthusiastic about helping to create this book, a parade of soldiers blessed future readers with their incredible stories, observations and hard-won opinions. My digital recorder and notepad were overflowing with far more treasure than could ever fit into my allotted number of pages.

The scope of this story is not a single book: it could fill a multi-volume set. Of necessity, this will be a comprehensive *overview* of the division’s part in the GWOT—bursting with the experiences of soldiers in their own words; stories that tell of service, hardship, comradeship and a pride shared by so many Red Bulls in the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, as well as in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sinai, Kuwait—and even in airports and weapons facilities within the United States.

I learned about the bond between soldiers from LTC John Cunningham, Battalion Commander of the 1-194<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery: “There is truly no greater bond than with guys you have spent a year with—fighting beside; their ups and their downs, things going on at home. You rely on that guy. He’s got your left, he’s got your right, and you’ve got his.”

Major James Avrams was captain of the HHC for the 1-168<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the 2010 Afghanistan deployment. He made it clear that nowhere was entirely safe in Afghanistan, including training on base with ANA soldiers:



**The 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division History of the Global War on Terror book, “The Roaring Bull,” is in the final stages of being written by Mr. Brian Leehan. The publishing schedule calls for it to be available for the 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Association in October 2017.**

**The book will document the mobilization and deployment of 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division units who have served during the past 16 years since 2001.**

**A copy of the WWII History of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division book is shown in the photo with this article. The new GWOT history book will be approximately the same size and will be published in color.**

“We were learning to fire all of the Afghan weapons. One of the RPGs had a miss-fire, and the Afghan orderly just put it between his legs and wrestled the warhead out of it, looking right down into it.” Avrams looked at me totally deadpan, but with a very slight, wry smile and continued, “Reckless ... reckless and fearless.” Major Brandon Gray, a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., 1-133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, in the 2005 “Long Deployment,” gave me a searing image of the heat endured by soldiers in “full battle rattle” in Iraq: “You could touch the outside of a ‘Humvee’ and burn your hand—there was a reason we wore gloves.” Major Randall Stanford was a young Staff Sgt. with the 1-113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in the 2003 Kosovo deployment. Taking a break in roadside shade, and always eager to provide some levity on a hot and often boring patrol, Stanford asked his soldiers how much they’d give him to leap on one of the cattle streaming by their vehicles. With shouts of, “Five bucks! Ten!,” the lean, young SSGT leapt off the top his HMMWV, straddling a startled bovine. “She just took off—blew the soft-side doors off the ‘Humvee.’ I go, feet higher than my head, flat-back onto the ground. Everybody got a good laugh, and I wasn’t hurt. The local farmer laughed his rear off!”

- Brian Leehan

## RED BULL TEAM!

This is the winter edition to our newsletter and just like our short winter things are warming up and we have a lot to look forward to for the rest of the year.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division History of the Global War on Terror book, "The Roaring Bull," is in the final stages of being written by Mr. Brian Leehan. The document will be submitted to the publisher in March 2017 and will be available for sale in the fall at the 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Association on 7-8 October 2017 in Johnston, IA. The book will document the mobilization and deployment of 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division units who have served during the past 16 years since 2001. I have personally read though this book and Brian is a great story teller and writer; you literally just fly through the pages as he tells the GWOT story of our 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

The 2017 Reunion is on 6-7 October in Johnston, Iowa. This event will be different from more recent reunions in that the costs will be much less so young soldiers can afford the event and we will host it in conjunction with the Iowa Infantry Association annual awards meeting. We hope to have increased attendance and make this an even better event. Details will be in the Spring 2017 Newsletter.

We want to remember we still have 2-135th IN, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division soldiers deployed to the Multi-National Force in Sinai, Egypt. They will return home from the mission in late spring/early summer. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We are also sending some soldiers to parts of Africa starting this week as 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade builds their partnership with 1/101 AIR ASSAULT Division.

ATTACK!

MAJ Randall Stanford  
34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn. President  
randall.t.stanford.mil@mail.mil



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

## 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Final Roll Call - Winter 2017

Ervin Hinton, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Vernon L. Baer, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Harry Shigeru Asato, A 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Richard N. Masimore, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Eugene Zenk, 1-168 Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Louis N. Vago, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Glenn Blouse, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Alvin J. Hezlep, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Don Weiler, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Monte Lee Zehringer, L 135<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Jacinto (Jay) Romo, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Mark Crowl, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
David W. Merryman, 194<sup>th</sup> FA, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Warren "Bud" Lawson, HQ Ia NG  
John W. Vessey, Jr, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Naaman Haren, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Loren Frank, 194 FA, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Edward "Sid" Sidler, 194th Cav Sqdn  
Jim McEntaffer, 168<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Steven Groom, 113<sup>th</sup> Cav Sqdn, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Derrick McKinley Moore, 168 In 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Paul Calder, 168<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Wilbur L. "Punch" Gallup, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Luther J. Phillips, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Albion E. Wall, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Eugene Egg, F 133<sup>rd</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Kazuma "Monty" Nishiie, D 100<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Tetsuo Tateishi, A 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Shigeru "Stu" Tsubota, D 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34 ID  
Mildred Fencil, Sergeant-at-Arms, 34<sup>th</sup> Assn  
Max Makoto Iwai, D 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Hiromichi Fujimura, B 100<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
John Minotti, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Rev. Charles E. Huffman, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Kenneth A. Gjengdahl, M 135<sup>th</sup>, 34 Inf Div  
Herb Feutz, A 175<sup>th</sup> FA, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
John L. Hergenroeder, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
John J. Holland, L 168<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Donald "Peanuts" Preuschl, 194 FA, 34<sup>th</sup> ID

### **National Office-34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

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

**Secretary: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl** E-mail: bierlhome@msn.com

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

Archival Website [www.34infdiv.org](http://www.34infdiv.org)

**70<sup>th</sup> Reunion** 6-7 October 2017, Johnston, IA

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

Email: [michael.musel@iowa.gov](mailto:michael.musel@iowa.gov) Gold Star Museum

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

E-mail: [skelly@milhist.net](mailto:skelly@milhist.net)

**Facebook Webmasters: Herman Poggensee & SFC Kevin Kalahiki**

**WEB Site Manager: MSG Daniel Ewer sgtddaniel@aol.com  
& Historian**

**Facebook 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn:** <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>

**Internet 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn:** <http://www.34ida.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>

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

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

## **The First Minnesota – today’s “2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry” in the U.S. Civil War**

The 1st Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was the first organization to be volunteered for federal service in Civil War. Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey was in Washington, D.C. on April 12, 1861, the date Fort Sumter was attacked by South Carolina forces. Fort Sumter surrendered the following evening after a 34-hour bombardment. On Sunday, April 14th Ramsey was at the office of Secretary of War Simon Cameron, and offered 1,000 men from the state to suppress the rebellion. The offer was written out on a sheet of paper, signed and accepted. The Minnesota militia companies would form the 1st Minnesota and be assigned to the Army of the Potomac, the main U.S. Union army fighting in the Eastern Theater of the war.

The regiment fought in all the major battles in the east including Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, Antietam, First and Second Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. The 1st Minnesota’s Company B had the motto "To the Last Man" for their post-war veterans association. It was almost, literally, the truth in their fight at Gettysburg. Eight of the regiment’s understrength companies were posted on Cemetery Ridge, at the center of the Union line, on the second day of the battle. Three to four Confederate regiments were moving toward their position, and every other Union unit in the area was already engaged with the enemy.

Outnumbered four- or five-to-one, the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota was ordered to fix bayonets and charge the Confederate line—a desperate attempt to hold-back the enemy until reinforcements could arrive and brace the Union line. The 290-some Minnesotans stalled and held back the Confederates, but at a cost of nearly 70 percent killed or wounded. The entire regiment’s casualty rate for the battle approached 77 percent.

In 1864 the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment would become the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Minnesota Volunteers in after the original enlistments of most of the soldiers had expired. Those who chose to re-enlist, along with those who still had time on their original enlistments and a handful of new volunteers, would see the battalion through the end of the war in April, 1865. The unit became the 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Spanish American War and finally the 135th Infantry Regiment during WWI—its designation ever-since.

### **Army –The Most Married Military Service**

The Army has the highest percentage of married service members of all branches. In the Regular Army, 58.2 percent are married, more than the 57.7 percent marriage rate in the Air Force and 51.4 percent rate in the Navy. In the Marine Corps, just 43.8 percent are married. Fifty-three percent of Marines, 48 percent of the Navy, 36.4 percent of the Army, and 35.7 percent of the Air Force have never been married, according to a Defense Department profile of the military based on 2015 data.

### **Purpose of the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
- Support our “Wounded Warriors” who have faithfully served our nation.

## **“FROM THE FRONT LINES”: STORIES, LETTERS, AND PHOTOS OF A WWII MEDICAL OFFICER.”**

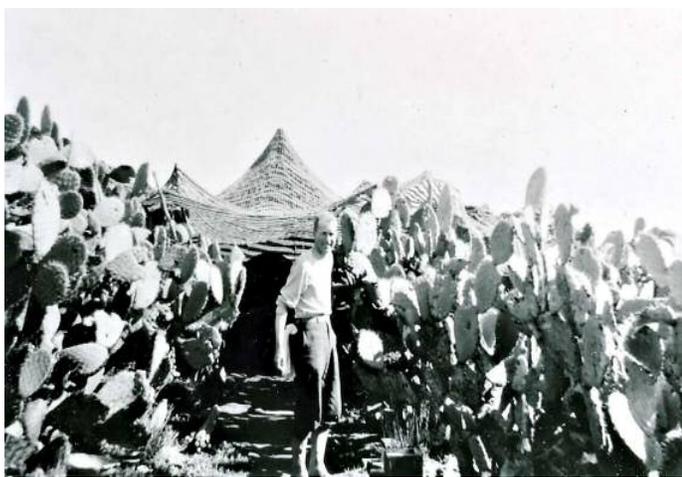
By Peggy Ludwick

My father, **Dr./Lt. Col. Arthur L. Ludwick Jr., 1913 – 2008**, practiced family medicine in Wenatchee, WA for over 50 years. He was a modest and quiet man and most people didn't know of his heroism during WWII. He was on the first U.S. troop ship sent to Europe after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and served for 27 months with the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (133<sup>rd</sup>/168<sup>th</sup> Regiments) as a Battalion/Regimental Surgeon in Northern Ireland, North Africa, and Italy.

In combat, Dad insisted on serving as far forward as possible to ensure that wounded soldiers were quickly and properly treated and evacuated. He participated in 14 major engagements with the enemy in North Africa, including the Kasserine Pass debacle and the Battle for Hill 609. He was awarded the Purple Heart in Tunisia and Silver Star for ‘gallantry in action’ on Mount Pantano, Italy, both unusual commendations for an unarmed medical officer.

My father spoke of his war experiences in a very “matter-of-fact” manner, and it was only after his death in 2008 and my subsequent WWII reading/research that I came to fully realize the extreme conditions and intensity of the North African and Italian campaigns.

‘Psychiatric Casualties’ were high in the combat units and Dad used a unique and highly effective treatment method to rehab these soldiers suffering from “combat fatigue” (PTSD). He would take the affected soldiers back to his Aid Station where they'd spend a few days resting and talking with one another about their fears and anxieties – and every morning, Dad would fix them hot oatmeal with black market raisins. They felt cared for and bonded with one another and soon returned to the front lines. We refer to this war story of his as “The Magic of Oatmeal”.



**Camouflaged Medical Aid Station in a cactus patch, North Africa, 168<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt, WWII. MAJ Ludwick was aboard the first U.S. troop ship to arrive in North Ireland in 1942.**



**Peggy Ludwick brought her father's WWII U.S. Army footlocker to the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion. From L to R: Russ Bierl, 34<sup>th</sup> ID Assn. Sec, Peggy Ludwick, and Mike Vogt, Gold Star Museum Curator.**

My dad was always a prolific letter writer and during his 27 months of overseas service during the war, sent 275 letters and captioned photos home to his new wife of just two months. They were love letters as well as eloquently written and detailed accounts of daily operations as a battalion/regimental surgeon on the front lines of a horrific war. His keen observations of the Irish, North African, and Italian landscapes, people and cultures, combat conditions, American innovation, and medical treatment of soldiers and civilians, are fascinating. I am currently excerpting portions of these letters into a “Letters Home” master document which I hope to make available to the 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn.

In October 2016, I traveled to Johnston, IA to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn's 69<sup>th</sup> Reunion. It was a wonderful weekend, with highlights being: a tour of the impressive Gold Star Military Museum, meeting and listening to present-day NG officers' accounts of serving in the world's ‘hot zones’, talking with current NG units training on the Camp Dodge firing range, and meeting a few remaining WWII veterans and their families. I came away with a better knowledge of and respect for the strength, commitment, and leadership of today's National Guard. To quote COL Todd Jacobus, “You're either infantry or support the infantry”.

I'm grateful for the courageous men and women who serve our country and the rich history of the Red Bull 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. After learning so much about my father's WWII experiences and attending the reunion, I feel connected to the 34<sup>th</sup>, in some small way.

Through interviews with my dad before he died in 2008, his 275 typed, detailed letters home, captioned photos, and perfectly preserved military equipment, my family has been left with a rich history of Dad's service on the front lines of WWII.

**Please feel free to contact me: [peglud@charter.net](mailto:peglud@charter.net)**

## 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Assn. Officers



President	MAJ Randall Stanford
1st Vice President	MAJ Jacob Helgestad
2nd VP	MAJ James Avrams
1 Year Trustees	SFC James Sherril Dr. Chris White Daniel Ewer Ken Andresen
2 Year Trustees	Mark Zirkelbach CSM Chris Stroner 1LT Trent Whitcomb CSM Willie Adams
3 Year Trustees	Hermann Poggensee Larry Woodworth LTC Tim Sulzner Paul Wieck
Secretary	Russell Bierl
Treasurer	Michael Musel
Information Officer	---
SGT at Arms	Eugene Liefeld
WebSite Mgr & Historian	MSG Daniel Ewer
Sr.Historian Emeritus	Pat Skelly
Chaplain	1LT Nathan Perry

## 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association thanks SFC Kevin Kalahiki , 2 IBCT HQ's and CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee for continued updates to the Face Book pages.

The URL for the 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn. national page is:  
[www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc](http://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc)

The URL for the Des Moines Chapter 34<sup>th</sup> ID page is:  
[www.facebook.com/34IDAssocDesMoinesChapter](http://www.facebook.com/34IDAssocDesMoinesChapter)

The URL for the Minnesota Cmdr's Own Chapter is  
[www.facebook.com/commandersownredbullassociation](http://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.

MSG Daniel Ewer is Website Manager for the Association Web Site, [34IDA.org](http://34IDA.org) Please send us documents to post on this site. We will be asking for input in the proposed book to be written this coming year, The 34th Inf Div in the GWOT.

The Web Site for the actual MTOE 34th Inf Div is:  
[www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id/](http://www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id/)

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 archives.

## Member Newsletter Choice: Newsletter Electronic PDF or U.S. Mail ?

The 34th Infantry Division Association Board of Directors and Trustees, recently approved an expenditure, on 1 Dec 16) of up to \$850 to pay for the scanning of the WWI Camp Cody YMCA newspaper archives, held at the University of Minnesota, for use in the Centennial Celebration of the 34th Infantry Division. The motion was made by Daniel Ewer with a Second by Jacob Helgestad. The vote was 10 Yea and 1 Nay. Please note, Half of this project was funded with personal donations by members.

This action brought about discussion about the annual budget of the Association and reoccurring expenses of the Association. We have approximately 600 Life members who pay no annual dues. Each of the Life Members will need to be serviced with a newsletter mailing until they pass away. We have approximately 230 Annual members who pay dues of \$10 per year. At best we break even on the yearly dues. The cost of printing the newsletter and mailing the newsletter three times a year is \$400.00 per issue to print X 3 issues per year is = \$1,200 per year. And mailing is \$400 in stamps X 3 issues is \$1,200. Total \$2,400 per year to print and US mail the newsletter to members.

With this in mind, the question was asked about how we can cut expenses on the newsletter. First up, the Board stated that we will continue to U.S. Mail the newsletter to all who wish to receive a hard copy. We will also continue to post the newsletter on the 34th Inf Div Association Website, "34ida.org" and the association National Face Book page.

Those members who wish to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter by email will be given the opportunity by replying to this newsletter article. If you choose an email version, be sure to update the association if you change your email. Changing to the PDF email will save monies for the Assn. and help us hold down mailing costs. Approximately 50 members now request the newsletter by electronic PDF email. Thank you for considering this option and your prompt response.

All members who choose to receive an email "Electronic PDF Version" of the newsletter in the future should reply immediately to the 34th Infantry Division Association Treasurer, LTC (Ret) Michael Musel at: **michael.musel@iowa.gov**

## Two years of hard work pays off for Red Bulls at National Training Center – Ft Irwin, CA

FORT IRWIN, CA, UNITED STATES- All of the of the Soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, have returned home, and the equipment is serviced and turned in, so 1<sup>st</sup> ABCT is closing the book on National Training Center rotation 2016-07 and looking forward to its ready year in 2017. Ready Year means they are “Fully Deployable.”

“The training the brigade received and conducted was among the hardest and most realistic that the U.S. Army offers,” said Col. Robert Intress, commander of the 1/34th ABCT. “I am incredibly proud of our performance ... we have been extremely successful and safe!”

In addition to the nearly two years of planning and training leading up to the rotation, the brigade’s mission at NTC consisted of four phases: logistics involving the movement of 1,500 pieces of equipment and 6,000 Soldiers to Fort Irwin, California; Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration; force-on-force field exercise; and regeneration, which involves shipping all equipment and personal back to their home station in Minnesota.

Logistical execution began in early May, several weeks before the bulk of Soldiers from the 1/34th ABCT and supporting units were set to arrive. Soldiers with the 347th Regional Support Group first loaded and secured more than 300 wheeled vehicles, 350 tracked vehicles and 1,400 containers onto 500 railcars at the Camp Ripley railhead. A few days later, these items arrived at the Yermo Railhead Annex at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Once the equipment was downloaded, Soldiers began convoy operations down the Mannex Trail, a 30-mile trek through the Mojave Desert bridging the final leg of the journey to Fort Irwin.

The second phase began in early June, when nearly 6,000 Soldiers from 18 states arrived at the Rotational Unit Bivouac Area on Fort Irwin. Arriving in stages, 350 chartered bus movements and 90 flights brought Soldiers from muster formations across the nation.

The five-day RSOI period – a period of time that was “contested” by the opposition force and included a protest at the gate, mock media engagements and several other battle drills – was the time to prepare section equipment and vehicles for the 14-day field exercise in the “The Box.” Soldiers were consumed with the drawing of additional vehicles from the Fort Irwin motor pool, the installation of Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems, unloading of shipping containers, packing individual and section equipment and conducting various live-fire training events.

All the while, the brigade was supported by the 347th RSG, which acted as the “White Cell.” Everything from scanning Soldier’s ID cards to hauling away trash, Soldiers of the 347th RSG maintained a high quality of life for Soldiers inhabiting this “mini city” that sprung up in a few short days. In addition to providing two hot meals per day during the RSOI phase, the 347th RSG received and escorted the many distinguished visitors that visited to witness the brigade’s training – representatives that included Gen. Robert Abrams, commanding general of U.S. Army Force Command, and Representative Tim Walz.

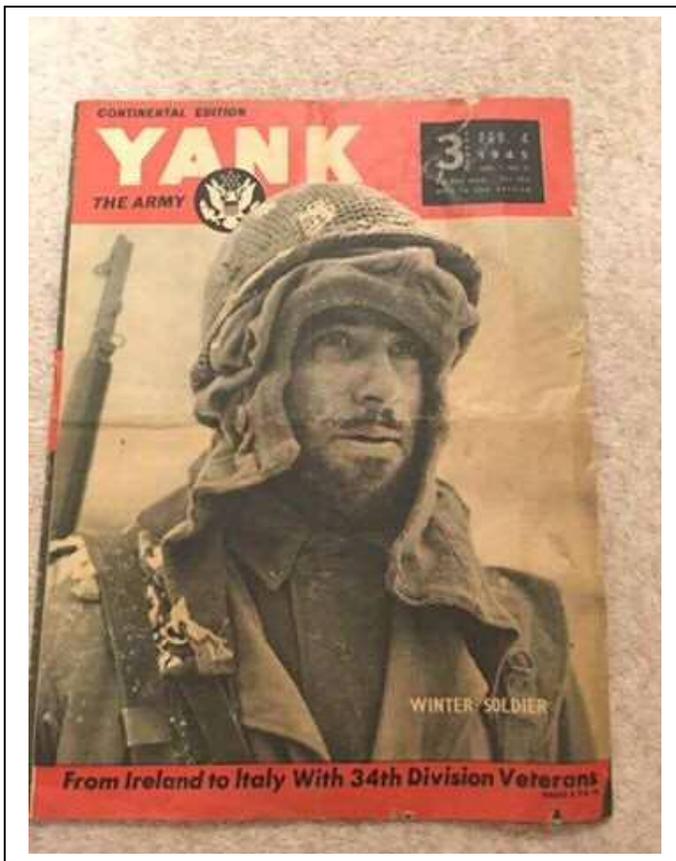
“Although we experienced heat up to 116 degrees and 50 miles per hour winds while drinking 100 degree water, eating nothing but MREs and not showering for more than 14 days, the motivation, excitement and willingness to improve every day makes me humble and proud,” said Intress. “Before we arrived I said that NTC will test your character – and we all passed that test.” July 1, 2016 by Staff Sgt. Patrick Loch, 1st BCT, 34th Red Bull Inf Div  
Read the complete article here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/203017/two-years-hard-work-pays-off-red-bulls-ntc>



Soldiers with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, during National Training Center rotation 16-07 at Fort Irwin, CA. (MNNG by Sgt. Linsey Williams)



A line of Bradley Fighting Vehicles offloading at the Yermo rail yard. Hundreds of pieces of equipment were convoyed to Fort Irwin, CA by the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Inf Div (MNNG by Capt. Kevin Cronen)



### Cover of YANK Magazine, February 1945

The war will be over for the soldiers of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is just a little over four months from this date. On May 7, 1945 the war in Europe ended. And then all had to wait for their turn in the rotation system to be sent home to the USA.

The 34th Division amassed 517 days of combat. One, or more, 34th Division units were engaged in actual combat with the enemy 611 days. The division was credited with more combat days than any other division in the European-North African Theater. The 34th Division suffered 3,737 killed in action, 14,165 wounded in action, and 3,460 missing in action, for a total of 21,362 battle casualties. Casualties of the division are considered to be the highest of any division in the theater when daily per capita fighting strengths are considered.

The division's men were awarded 10 Medals of Honor (with an additional 16 MOH awarded to the 100th Bn. and 442 RCT in 2000 by President William J. Clinton), 98 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, 1,052 Silver Stars, 116 Legion of Merit medals, one Distinguished Flying Cross, 1,713 Bronze Stars, 51 Soldier's Medals, 34 Air Medals, with duplicate awards of 52 oak leaf clusters, and 15,000 Purple Hearts.

## "Des Moines Chapter"

### 34th Infantry Division Assn. Meetings Schedule 2016 – 2017

Mar 21, 2017 Meeting w/ Meal GS Museum  
 Apr 18, 2017 Meeting w/ Meal GS Museum  
 May 2017 NO MEETING  
 Jun 20, 2017 Meeting w/ Meal GS Museum  
 Jul 2017 NO MEETING  
 Aug 15, 2017 Membership Night / Meal Spouse's Nite  
 Sep 19, 2017 Meeting w/ Meal: Reunion Update  
 Oct 6-7, 2017 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div National Reunion

President: Ronald "Curly" Albrecht 319-830-9027

[pantherfansforlife@gmail.com](mailto:pantherfansforlife@gmail.com)

Vice President: Jerry Jensen 515-278-5704

Secretary: Harold "Hal" Turner 515-988-4821

Treasurer: James Berg 515-279-2869

## "Commanders Own Chapter" -Rosemount Armory

In October, the chapter conducted a transition of authority between outgoing chapter president, BG Jon Jensen, and COL Kevin Olson. SFC (Ret) Eugene Leifield is the First Vice President, and COL Lowell Kruse is now the Second Vice. LTC Lyndsey Olson assumed duties as Treasurer, and COL (Ret) Don Kerr is now Secretary.

"Winter Line" bourbon is currently being distributed to those who placed orders. Many thanks to those of you who participated in this meaningful fund-raiser. We are planning a similar activity for next year in time to compliment the recognition of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the 34th Inf Div next August. Watch for our announcement as we begin our year-long commemoration of our great Division's establishment.

The next meeting will be on Sat, Jan 7th following closing formation. An informal social will follow at the Rosemount VFW nearby.

## "To The Last Man" Chapter 2-135 Infantry

The Minnesota National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment are deployed to the Sinai Peninsula to observe and report on the peace treaty signed in 1979 between Israel and Egypt. They will reconvene their meetings after they return from deployment.

The 2-135 IN: HQ's & HQ's Company in Mankato and Owatonna; A Company in West St. Paul; B Company in Rochester; C Company in Winona; and D Company in Albert Lea; and 1135th Support Company in Austin.

The Soldiers will be deployed for nine months in support of the Multi-National Force in Sinai, Egypt.

# 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

**NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (7) 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.34ida.org> 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 _____	\$ 25.00	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" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$15.00	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> Div "Camouflage" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$15.00	34 <sup>th</sup> Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00

Books Available: 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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