

New Book

THE ARMY AT DAWN by Rick Atkinson. This book is the first of three on WWII in the ETO. Mr Atkinson did some of his research at the Gold Star Museum and interviewed veterans in the area. Although he points out that the US Army was not ready for these first battles they learned quickly. Tactics and strategy, Order of Battle, working with the British, confusion with the French etc were most difficult. The seasoned German forces and our equipment shortfalls made the lessons hard earned for the 34th Infantry Division, the 1st Infantry Division, the 9th Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division. This book is recommended for all our members.

Red Bulls Interviewed

FOX News channel has a continuing series entitled: "WAR STORIES with Ollie North." Joe Boitnott and Duane Stone, both of the 168th IN Rgt and members of the National Association, were interviewed as a part of FOX's feature on the North African Campaign. Their episode was aired Sunday February 16, 2003. They represented the 34th Infantry Division very well !

Red Bulls Honored

In ceremonies at Camp Dodge four Red Bulls were awarded the ORDER OF ST MAURICE – patron saint of the Infantry. MG Rtd Paul Wieck – Deputy Commander 34th Inf Division, Frank Sanache – Code Talker 168 Inf, Joe Boitnott – 168th IN Rgt, Norman Raner – 133 IN Rgt were honored for their outstanding record as Infantrymen. The ceremonies were open to the public and were well attended.

BATTLE OF CASSINO

After a terrible battle in December 1943 against the German "WINTER LINE" culminating with the assault on Mount

Pantano, the 34th Infantry Division was committed 24 January 1944 to take the Monastery at Monte Cassino.

This battle is now termed by historians as the first of four Battles of Cassino. After a brutal fight the Monastery was within reach of the Division. If they had been reinforced the whole struggle in Italy would have been different.

The battle started with yet another heavily defended river crossing followed by assaults against prepared positions in the mountains north of Cassino. The battle continued against Monte Castellone (771), Colle San Angelo (601), Phantom Ridge, Snakeshead Ridge, The Gorge, Madras Circus, Colle Maiola (401), Albeneta Farm, Hills 450, 476, 444, 445, The Barracks, The Jail and others. The 168 & 135 Infantry were turned at the walls of the Monastery 11 February 1944. The survivors were finally withdrawn in a totally exhausted condition. The Division set new standards in fighting uphill without rest, in miserable conditions.

Let us not forget our comrades in arms that perished in those awful mountains.

FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE

The French 3rd Algerian Division advanced to the right of the 34th Division to Monte Belvedere. They too were involved in a desperate fight. The French Provisional Government bestowed the Croix de Guerre with Palm on all units of the 34th Division for their conspicuous action. The Citation reads:

"A 'division d'elite', whose loyal and efficient cooperation with the French divisions, begun in TUNISIA, was gloriously continued throughout the Italian campaign, in particular during the operations of BELVEDERE when the 34th Division, despite the difficulties of the moment, displayed most courageous efforts in support of the operations of the 3rd Algerian Division."

Bronze Star Medal

The Bronze Star Medal is authorized for all soldiers that have received the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medic Badge during the period 7 Dec 41 thru 2 Sep 45. Send a letter to National Personnel Record Center (Military Personnel Records) 8700 Page Ave, St Louis, MO 63132 – 5100. Attach a copy of your discharge record that cites the CIB or CMB and has your Service #. Phone: NPRC Customer Service – 314-801-0800 and press button #3 according to answering instructions. If you call be sure to have your army service # handy.

34th Div Assn Web Site

Pat Skelly has a great deal of information on our web site: www.34infdiv.org. The new chat room is excellent. Hats off to you Pat! For those that are used to using the web you will find this very helpful – contact it often as Pat continues to update it with info. For those that are not used to this form of communication maybe you have a son, daughter or grandchildren that can help. Many libraries and other public locations can provide access if you don't have computer equipment.

34th Div Memorial Highway Signs

Highway 34 across southern Iowa was designated the 34th Infantry Division Memorial Highway 10 years ago. The National Association furnished the signs and the Iowa DOT placed them. Over the years some were stolen, others damaged and the red color had faded. In accordance with action at the last reunion Sep 2002, we have purchased new signs from Iowa

Prison Industries and the Iowa DOT is placing the new ones. We also had mini-signs made for sale. See our price list.

Final Roll Call

The following Red Bulls have made their final roll call according to reports since the September 2002 Reunion.

LeRoy Bell
Irvin Bell
Chester Bills
Wilfred Carroll
Jake Castle
Rex Castle
James Furey
Albert Guigo
Archie Hirsch
Stanley Humphries
William Kenevich
Alfred Kirchner
Lowell Lynn
Stanley McDonald
Charles Merada
Thomas Miller
Zed Miller
Jimmie North
Claude Pleas
LeRoy Rolstad
James Runtich
George Seim
Vince Senise
George Thomas
Julius Tinko
George Urgo
Jim Von Epers