



34th Infantry Division Association

Building A-9, Camp Dodge
7700 NW Beaver Drive
Johnston, Iowa 50131
<http://www.34infdiv.org/>



24th April 2005

To:

Hon. Graziano Delrio, Sindaco del Comune di Reggio Emilia

Greetings:

By direction of the President of the 34th Infantry Division Association, and with concurrence of the Commander, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, I bring our greeting and appreciation.

Our World War II veterans in the 34th Infantry Division Association, and the officers and men of the present 34th Infantry Division, wish me to represent them in your city on this 25th of April, your National Day of Liberation.

Our Regiment had the honor to enter into your city sixty years ago, on the 24th of April 1945. World War II was coming to an end in your province.

Yet conflict never seems to end. We still serve where needed. Soldiers of our "Ironman" Battalion are now 'on the ground' in Afghanistan. Two years ago the Battalion was serving with the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in the Sinai Desert.

And we know and appreciate that members of your Armed Forces still serve with honor and strength when and where they are needed.

The effort of your organizations and governments, at all levels, to remember and preserve the history of World War II, is needed, and very much appreciated. It is important that those dreadful years be known to our grandchildren as more than simply "The Allies won, the Axis lost".

It is our pleasure to send with this letter an extract from the official history of our Regiment for 23-26 April 1945. It reports our entry into Reggio nell'Emilia on the afternoon of the 24th. We hope that this will be of interest and value to the historians and citizens of your commune, province, and region.

Patrick Skelly, Historian
34th Infantry Division Association

Copy:

Hon. Sonia MASINI, Presidente della Provincia di Reggio Emilia.

Dott. Maria Carla Sidoli TERRACHINI, Reggio nell'Emilia.

Mr. Ben KRALL, President, 34th Infantry Division Association.

Maj. Gen. Rick ERLANDSON, Commanding General, 34th Infantry Division.

Lt. Col. Benjamin CORELL, Commander, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment.

Mr. Patrick SKELLY, 34th Infantry Division Association.

Ad Memoriam Qui Ceciderant Militum

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