



1-194 Lineage



The 1st Battalion 194th Field Artillery was formed on 26 February 1943 from the 2nd Battalion 125th Field Artillery Regiment and the 1st Battalion 185th Field Artillery Regiment. Both of these units were part of the 34th Infantry Division, which was half from Minnesota and half from Iowa. This newly formed artillery battalion was equipped with 155 mm howitzers with a General Support (GS) mission to the 34th Infantry Division. Upon mobilization for World War II, the battalion transitioned to the 8 inch howitzers to better meet the needs of the division. The original motto of the battalion was "Faithful, Formidable, and Fiery!". This motto was a composite taken from both the 2-125 FA ("Faithful") and the 1-185 FA (Formidable and Fiery). The original unit crest was also a composite of these two organizations, reflecting symbols of the Minnesota and Iowa National Guard.

INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR II

The 1st Battalion 194th Field Artillery fired a total of 92,165 artillery rounds and its soldiers received a total of 5 Silver Stars, 2 Legions of Merit, 54 Bronze Stars, 10 Air Medals including 22 clusters, and 140 Purple Hearts. Below is a brief timeline which depicts the significant historical events that the battalion encountered.

- 11 AUG 1943 Mobilized as part of II Corps, Fifth Army.
- 23 NOV 1943 First round fired in action against Germany.
- 08 DEC to 16 DEC 1943 Battle of Mt. Lungo and San Pietro.
- 06 JAN to 08 JAN 1944 Battle for Mt. Porchia and Mt. Chiaia.
- 15 JAN to 16 JAN 1944 Battle for Mt. Trochio
- 24 JAN to 23 MAR 1944 Battle for Cassino.
- 23 MAR to 04 JUN 1944 Breakthrough and fall of Rome. 2437 rounds fired in the 24 hour period in preparation for the attack of the 3rd US. ID
- 14 JUL 1944 Back in action near Cecina, Italy.
- 01 DEC 1944 First round fired into Germany (Strasbourg).
- 17 DEC 1944 At Salmbach, Alsace - met stiff resistance from the o Siegfried Defens
- 08 JAN 1945 Battle for Hatten, Alsace.
- 04 APR to 12 APR 1945 Battle for Heilbronn, Germany.



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ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE AFTER WWII

Shortly after World War II, the 1st Battalion 194th Field Artillery received its federal recognition as a National Guard unit in the State of Iowa and attached to the 34th National Guard Division. The battalion exchanged its 8 inch howitzers for tractor drawn 155 mm howitzers. Although the battalion campaigned in the second World War, all honors were inherited by the 556th Field Artillery Battalion of Eastern Iowa, organic to the 34th National Guard Division.

Until October of 1954 the 1-194 FA utilized the motto and insignia of the 556th Field Artillery. After this date, our battalion adopted its current coat of arms and distinctive insignia. Our insignia (unit crest) represents the essence of artillery. The scarlet color represents the color for artillery. The flame like partition indicates the intense firepower of the organizations artillery. The pellets depict cannon balls and symbolizes readiness. Our motto "When Ready" means just that - When you need us we will be ready!

None of the original units in 1947 had armories as we know them today. In fact, in all of the five communities which units were assigned, there was not one single building specifically constructed for the use of the National Guard. As you can see our soldiers conducted training and stored their equipment in "leftover" public and private buildings. Battery A started out in Humboldt and used the old hemp plant for its armory. Battery B had its start in Mapleton. Soon after it moved to Algona in an armory that was built in 1949. Battery C, used the Estherville City Hall Auditorium for the drill floor. Service Battery started out in a 12X16 room on the second floor of a Pepsi Cola warehouse in Algona. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery started out in the basement of the Tangney hotel in Spencer until they went to the fairgrounds to the entry building and then to the horticulture building.



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MOBILIZATION DURING THE KOREAN WAR

The battalion gave tactical support to units in Europe during the Korean War. It was activated on 11 SEP 1950, with the first duty station at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. During August of 1951, the unit was alerted for EUCON (The European Theatre). Upon arrival in Mannheim, Germany in September of 1951, the 1-194 FA was assigned to the 18th Field Artillery Group, Seventh Army, V Corps. The unit spent the rest of 1951 in Wursburg, Germany (North Kaserne).

During 1952 the unit successfully completed training in Grafenwohr in February, Wildflecken in July, and again in Grafenwohr in September. During September of 1952, the unit moved to Wertheim, about 30 miles West of Wursburg, and was relieved from tactical control of the 18th Field Artillery Group and attached to the 30th Field Artillery Group. In November, the 194th provided tactical support to units in the vicinity of Giessen, Germany.

On 23 JAN 1953, the battalion was transferred from tactical control of the 30th Field Artillery Group to the 142nd Field Artillery Group. Training exercises during 1953 were conducted at Baumholder during February and May and at Grafenwohr in July. In August, the battalion provided tactical support to units in the vicinity of Bamberg, Germany. In September of 1953, the unit participated in the Seventh Army maneuver "Monte Carlo", and in October, participated in the group firing test administered by V Corps Artillery.

The battalion participated in training exercises at Grafenwohr in February of 1954, and at Bafmholder in May of 1954. During April and September the battalion gave tactical support to units in the vicinity of Bamberg, Germany. On 17 JAN 1955, the 194th was released from active duty and reverted back to National Guard status. The 194th was reactivated as a part of the Iowa National Guard in 1953.



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RECENT HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

Until 1968, the battalion was a 155 mm towed organization. In 1968, the unit was reorganized from the 155mm howitzers to the 105 mm towed howitzers (M101A1). The 194th was assigned a direct support mission to the 34th "Red Bull" brigade of the 47th Infantry Division (formerly the 34th Infantry Division). This mission later changed when the 47th Infantry Division reverted back to the designation of the historic 34th Infantry "RED BULL" division. Currently our mission is direct support to the 2d Brigade (Air Assault) of the 34th Infantry Division with the M102, 105mm weapon system.

Reorganized under the BCT concept, on or about 4 September 2005, as an element of the 2BCT of 34th Infantry Division

CURRENT UNIT LOCATIONS

A Battery, Spencer

B Battery, Algona

C Battery Estherville – Will be retiring there colors 1Oct05, Will
Become A Battery

HHB (-), Fort Dodge

DET 1, HHB, Storm Lake