

34th Signal Company, Oregon Boost Museum Inventory

With the members of the World War II-era 34th Signal Company dwindling, the company's association recently donated their entire collection of historic artifacts to the National Guard Memorial Museum.

They are leaving to the National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) an "invaluable gift to future generations," says Jason Hall, NGEF director.

The 34th Signal Company was part of the Guard's 34th Infantry "Red Bull" Division, which spent more time in combat than other U.S. infantry division in World War II.

During the Allied advance into Africa and Italy, the 34th Signal Company's wiremen and radio operators maintained contact between the division headquarters in the rear and those at the front.

They laid 2,019 miles of wire from January to July 1944, and installed 40 switchboards, (one of which they donated to the museum). This work alone brought the total teletype traffic to 453,707 groups at the time.

Wiremen of the 34th Signal Company overcame especially adverse conditions on the march to Monte Cassino, Italy, connecting units by laying 160 miles of wire over rugged terrain, dodging friendly vehicle traffic movement

and enemy fire.

On Dec. 9, 1944, the company received a meritorious-service plaque, now also part of the museum collection for its exploits from January to July 1944

Don Smith of Watertown, S.D., coordinated the donation for the museum, working with the remaining veterans of the 34th Signal Company to collect and pack the items for transport.

Items include uniforms, documents, a photo album from the Italian campaign, field phones, a field switchboard and other items related to the company.

The museum also recently received several artifacts from the Oregon Military Museum.

Of note is an M1898 Mills cartridge belt used during the Philippine Insurrection, which began in the late 19th century.

The 2nd Oregon was heavily engaged in the Philippines. In the conflict's first year, three 2nd Oregon members earned the Medal of Honor.

Also included in the donation is a haversack used by a member of Company F, 3rd Oregon Infantry Regiment in either the Mexican Border Mobilization or World War I.

The screenshot shows the NGAUS website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text '- Any Keyword -' and a 'Go' button. To the right are links for 'Contact Us', 'Users Guide', and 'Legal'. Below the search bar is a banner image with the NGAUS logo and the text 'The National Guard Association of the United States'. Underneath the banner is a navigation menu with links: 'All About NGAUS', 'Membership', 'Conferences', 'Legislative Issues', 'Newsroom', 'Shop NGEF', and 'Resources'. The main content area is divided into several columns. On the left, there are sections for 'NGAUS News + Events', 'NGAUS News' (with a sub-item 'Guard Vows to Minimize impact on BRAC'), 'NGAUS Events' (with a sub-item 'This years National General Conference will be held in Beautiful Hawaii 17-19 September 2005'), and 'NGAUS Log-in' (with fields for Username and Password, and a 'Log In' button). The middle column features 'Our Chairman Welcomes You' with a photo of Brig. General Robert V. Taylor and a 'View Video' link. Below this is an 'About NGAUS' section. The right column contains 'NGAUS In Washington' with links to 'Write to Congress', 'NGAUS Top Legislative Issues', and 'LEGIT Legislative Update'. Other sections include 'NGEF' with links to 'National Guard Museum', 'Sign up for Guard Muster', and 'This Week In Guard History'; 'Membership Benefits' with links to 'Technician Insurance', 'Disability Claims', and 'Customer Service Contact'; 'Working With Industry' with links to 'Virtual Trade Show' and 'Become a Corporate Member'; and 'NGAUS Publications' with a link to 'National Guard Magazine and NGAUS Notes'. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'SITE REGISTRATION' section with a table listing upcoming events like 'Annual Golf Tournament' and 'Finance Committee Meeting'.

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