

The 1st Battalion, 34th Armor was constituted in the Regular Army on 28 August 1941 as Company A, 34th Armor Regiment. The unit was activated shortly thereafter on 1 October 1941 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as an element of the 5th Armored Division. During World War II, the 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment was relieved from the 5th Armor Division, reorganized and re-designated as the 772nd Tank Battalion before being sent to Europe, arriving at Le Havre, France in February of 1945, and participating in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Simultaneously, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was reformed as the new 34<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion became the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment.

In March of 1945, 1st Battalion was attached to the 44th Infantry Division only days before crossing the Rhine River south of Worms, Germany. The Battalion then led the attack of the 44th Infantry Division, which seized the city of Mannheim, an industrial, and transportation center. In April and May of 1945, with the war fast approaching an end, the 772nd Tank Battalion moved rapidly across Germany into Austria, again leading the 44th Infantry Division. In Austria, the Battalion's final combat mission was highlighted by the surrender of the 19th German Army.

After the end of World War II, the Battalion was inactivated on 14 November 1945 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and re-designated on 16 January 1947 as Company A, 306th Tank Battalion. Assigned to the Sixth Army, and allotted to the Army Reserves, the Battalion was activated on 25 June 1947 at Seattle, Washington where the unit remained until 1965. In May of 1949, Company A was reorganized and re-designated as the 306th Heavy Tank Battalion before being inactivated on 15 September 1950. Reconstituted and re-designated as Company A, 34th Armor in March 1957, the unit was withdrawn from the Army Reserve and re-allotted to the Regular Army. In April of the same year, the unit was re-designated as the First Medium Tank Battalion (Patton), 34th Armor, concurrently assigned to the 4th Infantry Division and reactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington.

The 1st Battalion, 34th Armor was reactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas on 1 August 1979 and assigned to the "Big Red One." From 1980 to 1990 the Centurion Battalion participated in numerous field-training exercises to include four REFORGER trips to Germany, and four deployments to the National Training Center in California. In December of 1990, the Battalion deployed to Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia. During Operation Desert Storm, the Battalion was the Brigade Assault Force for the breach of Iraqi defenses, and led the 1st Brigade in the night attack against the Tawakalna Division of the Republican Guard, and was the first unit in the Devil Brigade to enter Kuwait.

The Battalion most recently re-deployed to Kuwait in late 2001 as the first unit from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) to re-enter that theater of operations. Throughout its history, the 1st Battalion, 34th Armor has always served with pride, and as a member of "America's Team, the CENTURIONS continually stand ready to defend our Nation.

