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YOUR NATIONAL REUNION

Bob Carlson (86-L)

IMPORTANT BULLETIN. The date of June 2 for the late Registration Fee as published in the Registration Form will be moved to July 9. So sign up now at \$250 per person! Don't delay! July 9 the Registration Fee goes up to \$300 per person.

Excitement is high in the Rocky Mountain Chapter because of the National Reunion. We believe the necessary bases are covered. You will have the opportunity to meet the new president-elect of the 10th National Association.

Registrants are advised that if they want their identity badges printed (a collector's item) they must be registered by July 2. After that time badges will be hand-written. Partial refunds after July 15 may be available only under extraordinary circumstances.

The August 6 Camp Hale Tour is popular; as of May 11 there are 251 signed up. There will be a caravan of buses and cars. The State Highway Patrol will escort the buses. A Leadville company will provide ambulances to treat any urgent care cases because of the high altitude. We will visit the new John Compton Bridge over the Eagle River. We will load up at 7:30 AM and depart promptly at 8:00 AM.

There may be 10th Light soldiers attending the reunion, depending on their current assignment. Members of the famed 99th Norwegian Battalion plan to attend.

The times for all Reunion banquets and events will be on a card in a bag given you when you arrive. There will be two Memorial Services, one at the Marriott on Sunday, August 5 at 11:00 AM and the second at the Tenth Mountain Division Monument on Tennessee Pass on

Monday, August 6 at 11:00 AM as part of the Camp Hale Tour.

Those traveling in motor homes can park at the Hotel parking lot, free if registered for the Reunion, but there are no hook-ups. The nearest hook-up is at Cherry Creek State Park about 2 miles to the east on Bellevue Avenue. Parking for those staying at the Marriott will be free. Attendees not staying at the Marriott must pick up a timed ticket and pay for parking when they leave.

The Commemorative Book on the Tenth compiled by skiing legend John Litchfield includes many items never published before. It can be ordered on your registration form or can be ordered later through the Quartermaster.

Individual dinner reservations for special guests must be made at least one week in advance so that enough food and seating space can be made available. These meals will cost \$50 each subject to space and availability.

Prior to the Reunion, persons wishing to sell items at the Reunion must register with the National Quartermaster, Frank Thornton or the Rocky Mountain Chapter Quartermaster, Denise Taylor. It is essential that their items are entered in the QM computer system.

Dave Little's Living History Group will be set up in the Marriott hotel parking lot. The group has an amazing assortment of vintage WWII 10th Mountain Division equipment.

Emergency Care is nearby. Oxygen supplies will be available if you have a prescription. Check with your doctor to determine whether you might need oxygen.

All events at the hotel will be held at wheelchair accessible sites.

A MOUNTAIN TROOPER'S SKETCHBOOK

[Ed note. Following are excerpts from an article by **Flint Whitlock** (Associate) about artist **Jacques Parker** (86-C), who "fought the war with a pencil, pen, brush, and machine gun." The article appeared in *WWII History Magazine*, March 2007. It should be noted that Jacques contributed his artwork to the masthead at the top of the front page of the *Blizzard*, a regular feature since 1945].

As a sergeant in charge of a .30-caliber machine-gun squad, Jacques Parker took part in the famous February 19, 1945 night climb up the nearly sheer face of Riva Ridge — the 10th's first major combat action. Since no photographers accompanied the 1,000-man assault, Parker's drawings are the only visual record of the event.



The Riva Ridge Climb.

To maintain some degree of calm, Parker continued to draw and paint between battles. He carried a small watercolor tablet, a pen, a brush, and a bottle of india ink.

He said that "Sometimes I would have 5 or 10 minutes of quiet when I could draw something... I would either use spit or melted snow to wet the tablet." Parker sent his best sketches back to *Blizzard* editor Frank Kappler at division headquarters. He carried his drawings in his mountain rucksack. To protect the drawings, he rolled them up and sent them back to Kappler inside empty mortar tubes. Kappler loved Parker's artwork, noting, "It was beauti-

ful stuff because Jacques was in the line. He was a gunner!"

After the Germans surrendered, Kappler arranged for Parker to sketch a portrait of Maj. General Hays, who Parker describes as "wonderful to work with — a very regular, straightforward, simple guy." In the summer of 1945, the 10th held a ski race on Austria's Gross Glockner mountain. Said Parker: "...We had



Maj. General George P. Hays

guys like Olympic skier Steve Knowlton, and Walter Prager, the Dartmouth ski team coach. Fritz Kaiser, a photographer with the *Blizzard*, and I were assigned to cover the race. He took the photos and I did the drawings. That was my last assignment for the *Blizzard*."

As a civilian after the war, Parker opened his first commercial art studio and worked as a freelance illustrator. He combined his artistic skills with his love of skiing and created over a dozen paintings of mountain and skiing scenes that became covers for *Ski* magazine in the late 1940s and early 1950s. For the next 50 years, Parker worked for many of New York's advertising agencies. He also served as director of design for the City of New York under Mayor Ed Koch, and taught at the Parsons School of Design.

Still active as a designer, illustrator, and painter, Parker looks back on his time spent with the mountain troops with deep regard and appreciation. "The 10th gave so many of us a profound sense of brotherhood and accomplishment. It was another dimension to our lives."

AT NATIONAL REUNION, HELP IS CLOSE AT HAND

Given the advanced age of many of us and the altitude of Denver, it is comforting to know that Denise Taylor, who is in charge of medical arrangements, reports that all hotel security staff are CPR certified, and Rocky Mountain

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE
www.10thmtndivassoc.org



Published by and for Members of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.

Editorial material and photographs should be clearly marked with the sender's name and address. No photographs will be returned unless specifically requested. All materials should be sent to **Sally Fricke Oesterling, Blizzard Editor**, 9700 Cottrell Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20903. Opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the Magnificent Soldiers of the 10th and do not necessarily conform to accepted journalistic standards. Editor reserves the right to rewrite, renegotiate or refuse materials submitted for publication. For consultation purposes, the editor may be reached at 301-434-3237; Fax 301-434-7722; or e-mail sallyoes@verizon.net. Members should also feel free to contact National President John J. Duffy at 718-591-7775 or e-mail J.J.Duffy@worldnet.att.net. Subscription rate for nonmembers: \$20.00 per year.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

A reminder that the *Hale and Farewell* National Reunion is right around the corner. It will be great to meet and greet many of our veterans and families in Denver this August. I followed the example of a number of vets and extended invitations to the Duffy clan's second and third generations to tag along. Needless to say they accepted without hesitation. I am confident that if there is a contest for recognizing the oldest and youngest attendee, there will be many candidates in the 90-plus age range. But I think my 6-month old grand niece will win the youngest attendee prize. However, regardless of age it promises to be an exciting reunion for us and our heirs as they learn (and continue to learn) about the events we experienced years ago. Therefore, it behooves each one of us to refresh our memories with the wild tales about our army experiences. These stories will make this a real memorable hometown gathering. In case you're still undecided, here are a couple of fatherly guidance tips for you. Get off the couch, mail in your completed registration form, and make your hotel reservations today! If you misplaced the registration form and don't know who to contact for information, no problem — call me at 718-591-7775.

Following our Reunion, in September you can continue the festivities with two more events in Europe that involve 10th Mountain Division veterans and their families. Join us at the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) XXII Congress in Zawoja, Poland on September 20, 2007, and then be part of our Italy visit for the *Torbole 10th Mountain Division Exhibit* on September 30, 2007. These two events conveniently dovetail with each other, making for an interesting visit to WWII sites. An invitation is extended to all members to be in our delegation at both or either of these two events. Our members should be pleased and honored that the town of Torbole on Lake Garda is naming a 10th Mountain Division trail in the foothills of their Italian Alps. For the Exhibit's opening ceremony, the town folks plan to place wreaths at one of the five road tunnels that were the scenes of our final battles in WWII. In addition, the Italians have arranged to have an old Army DUKW afloat to place a wreath in the lake in memory of our 25 troopers who drowned the night of April 30, 1945. A wreath will also be placed at the Darby monument. If you recall, the then Colonel Darby was in second command of the Division after General Duff was wounded in the PO Valley. Darby and M. Sgt. John T. Evans were killed in Torbole on April 30. Arrangements have been made that we will march with the General Darby Foundation representatives during the ceremony. Thus the combined American delegation will demonstrate the United States appreciation to Torbole town folks for their generosity in honoring our fallen comrades. As we have said before it is truly an enduring friendship between the

Italians and Americans.

The Last Ridge documentary premiered in April. After viewing Producer Abbie Kealy's film, we concluded it is a splendid and accurate record of the 10th history. Abbie has accomplished a very difficult and complex task in making the film a collector's item and a beautiful tribute to her uncle, **Stuart Abbott** (86-L) who was killed in action in Italy.

A memorial service was conducted for the Association's Public Relations Vice President **Dick Wilson**, who died suddenly on April 12. Dick was very special to me and to this administration, just as he was to many in the prior administrations of the National Association. He will be sorely missed. I close with a tribute to Dick written by **Bob Parker** (87-E, HQ).



Dick Wilson

"Not many 10th Mountain Division veterans have had the impact on the legacy of the 10th as has Dick Wilson (85-M). First as the editor of *National Skiing*, then as editor of the *Disabled American Veterans* magazine, then co-director of *Riva Ridge Fifty* in 1995, president of our New England chapter, editor of the *Blizzard*, spark plug for 10th Mountain Division participation in the Hannes Schneider Meister event in North Conway, active in the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers, and more recently a passionate advocate for the *Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic*, held last winter in Snowmass, CO. Dick passed away in his sleep at home in Grantham, NH on the same date as President Roosevelt in 1945. He was for many years crippled by various ailments, including his war wounds, but continued active to the end. He was a stalwart veteran, a fine writer/editor, a compassionate supporter of today's mountain soldiers, and a wonderful friend to everyone who shared with him his love of mountains and skiing.

His friends are legion, in the U.S., in Europe, and around the world. We shall all miss him."

EVENTS

DATE	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	LOCATION
Last Thursday of each month	Northwest	Luncheon	Milwaukie, OR
July 10	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Lake Cle Elum, WA
July 12	New England	Memorial Garden	Lancaster, NH
July 15	Northwest	Picnic	Wieprecht's
July 21	Northwest	Pick & Plant	Highway 26
July 30	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
July 31	10th Mtn Div Found.	Board Meeting	Denver, CO
August 1	National Association	Board Meeting	Denver, CO
August 2-5	National Association	Reunion	Denver, CO
August 15	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Rainier, WA
August 15	Northwest	Luncheon	Timberline, OR
August 22-23	New England	Mt. Washington Climb	Mt. Washington, NH
August 27	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
August 28	Rocky Mountain	Trash Bash	Highway 40
September 7-9	Big Sky	Meeting	Helena, MT
September 11	Mt. Rainier	Dinner	Leavenworth, WA
September 19-23 IFMS		XXII Congress	Zawoja, Poland
September 30	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
September 30	ITALY	Memorial Trail Dedication	Darby Monument Torbole, Italy
October 9	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Seattle, WA
October 27	New England	Luncheon	New London, NH
October 27	Northwest	Pick and Plant	Highway 26
October 29	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
October 30	Rocky Mountain	Trash Bash	Highway 40
November 13	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Seattle, WA
November 26	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
December 11	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Seattle, WA
February 16, 2008	Midwest	Belvedere Day	Springfield, IL

THE LAST RIDGE DOCUMENTARY RELEASED ON PBS

The Last Ridge, my documentary about the 10th Mountain Division, has been released nationally on public television. Since PBS stations schedule locally, airing dates vary around the country. Many stations will air it in late September around Ken Burns' new WWII epic, "The War," or around Veteran's Day in November. It has already aired in Chicago, Washington DC, Milwaukee, Nashville, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, among other cities. Information on dates in your area is located on the program's companion website, www.lastridge.com. If you missed the program's airdate in your area, or can't stand the suspense, or if you want to buy the DVD version for someone special on Father's Day, check the Last Ridge website for ordering information. The DVD contains an additional 45 minutes with 8 neat Bonus Tracks, so pace yourself! There is more interesting information on the



website, so surf on over.

What makes *The Last Ridge* documentary unique is its active history approach. It weaves together re-enactments at the original training and battle locations, captured German film of forces opposing the 10th, animated 3-D maps, newly discovered letters and diaries, and footage of the current 10th Mountain Division (LT) on patrol in Afghanistan. The documentary is narrated by National Public Radio's Scott Simon, and was created to be interesting for all age groups, particularly those far removed from the cataclysmic events of WWII.

Thank you all for your support and interest during the making of the documentary. It's been an honor and a pleasure to share the 10th Mountain story with the world.

Abbie Kealy, Desc.
(Stuart Abbott, 86-L, KIA)
Writer/Producer/Director
The Last Ridge

VISIT LAST RIDGE WEBSITE
www.lastridge.com

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER REPORT

"Hale and Farewell" plans continue to come together at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center. Recently, there has been a frenzy of activity here. We have just inventoried and catalogued more than forty new collections, bringing our catalogued holdings to 122 manuscript collections and 49 oral histories. Reference requests continue to pour in from descendants, news organizations and researchers, resulting in a lot of use of our materials.

Make plans now to visit the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center during your stay in Denver in August. Bus tours from the reunion hotel will take you "behind the scenes" to see where all this activity takes place. The Denver Public

Library will also honor the 10th Mountain Division with a large, public display in the 5th floor gallery from July 20 through October 31. You will want to see the more than 100 large photographs, correspondence and ephemera that tell the 10th's story.

If you are unable to join one of the formal tours, please plan to visit the Resource Center section on site at the hotel. We will be demonstrating our database and our on-line research capabilities, and displaying numerous representative items from our collection. Naturally, we will also be prepared to receive your donations. So, if you have 10th Mountain Division items you would like to see preserved, please bring them to the reunion.

For documentary material, contact:

Dennis Hagen, Archivist • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy Department
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204-2731 • (720) 865-1812
Email: dhagen@denverlibrary.org

For artifacts, contact:

Moya Hansen, Curator • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
Colorado Historical Society • 1300 Broadway • Denver, CO 80203-2137
(303) 866-4697 • Email: Moya.Hansen@chs.state.co.us

PLATFORM AND SLATE: CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

We firmly believe that this slate is best suited to lead the National Association at this critical point in its history. Here is what this slate stands for:

1. We will ensure the perpetuation of the 10th Mountain Division Association by:
 - A. Providing an orderly evolution that capitalizes on the experience of all members.
 - B. Expanding the general membership.
 - C. Continuing to grow our future leadership.
 - D. Continuing the implementation of the National Association's Strategic Plan.
2. We will support the efforts of the descendants as they pick up the responsibility for the historical legacy of the WWII 10th Mountain Division.
3. We will continue to be good stewards of our financial resources.
4. We will continue to support the valuable work done by the Denver Resource Center.
5. We will continue to support the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation.
6. We will maintain our present relationship with the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS).

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TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION SKI-IN

Excerpted with permission from the full article about the annual Ski-in at Cooper Hill, by Andrew Wineke in the Colorado Springs Gazette, March 23, 2007.

Tears roll down **Hugh Evan's** cheeks as he finishes a mission he began 12 years ago: reading all 1,002 names on the 10th Mountain Division Memorial at the crest of Tennessee Pass. For decades, veterans of the 10th have come to Ski Cooper for a day on the slopes at the spot where they trained during WWII. In years past, as many as a thousand veterans hit the hill. At this year's event the number of skiers had dwindled to about 30. Don't think that means that WWII's ski troops are about to hang up their poles. The 10th Mountain may be legendary, but its members aren't ready to pass into legend. "This isn't the last for the skiing," Evans says. "I think we'll get another 5 to 10 years." Think that's overly optimistic? Consider **John Woodward**, 92. He is still racing, spending seven weeks each winter running away with his age group. At Cooper, he led a column of veterans down the mountain, holding aloft the American flag as he skied. In 1942, Woodward was one of the first soldiers sent from Ft. Lewis, WA to Camp Hale, then under construction outside of Leadville, and given the plum assignment of finding suitable slopes on which to train ski troops. "The Colonel said, 'Woodward! Take 150 ski instructors and go to Colorado Springs.' Woodward said, 'Yessir!'"

"The guys in front are probably the best older skiers in the world," says **Robert Parker**, who, as one of the founders of Vail, would certainly know. Parker's dedication to skiing is impressive. He now walks with a cane and uses an oxygen bottle in Ski Cooper's thin air. It doesn't keep him off the slopes, though. **Stan Walker**, 84, was on the mountain trying out modern-shaped skis. "They're better than those," he says, pointing to the original hickory skis worn by Chuck Roberts, a re-enactor with the 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group. "I'm only a beginner," Walker quips, "I didn't start until 1928."

Sgt. Dan Churchman drove up from Ft. Carson for the reunion, just to spend a day with the veterans. "I just want to be with my heroes." It's Brian Kealy's third time at the ski reunion. He came all the way from England. "You just can't ski with anyone better," Kealy says. "They're the best in the world. Just hanging around these guys is good fun." Kealy is a member of the living-history group, dressed in an authentic 10th uniform of the era, complete with the monster, square-toed boots the soldiers wore on skis — although he swapped them for modern ski boots before stepping on the lift. As Parker remembers, the boots weren't that great. Or the poles, or the skis, although they were quickly upgraded. The sleeping bags were warm, though. The important thing was the weapons, and they worked fine."

NATIONAL SKI TITLE

At the age of 92, International Skiing History Association (ISHA) member **John Woodward** (87-HQ-1, 10-Recon) won the national championship in his age division at the NASTAR Finals in Steamboat Springs in late March. John will undoubtedly win NASTAR'S other competition — the low-handicap rankings contest — for the 2006-07 season. Final results will be announced in late May.

The ISHA membership rolls contain many great ski racers: Andrea M. Lawrence, Stein Eriksen, Billy Kidd, and Penny Pitou, to name only a few. But their many championships are past history. Woodward is the only ISHA member who is currently reigning national ski champion. His racing career is on the rise!

Jim Fain, Editor and Publisher
NASTAR (National Standard Race)
Newsletter



John Woodward

Excerpts from "Camp Hale Skis"

by John Woodward, *Blizzard 3rd Quarter 1995*

In the summer of '42 skis were manufactured by three vendors. The skis were hickory laminated, flat topped with steel edges and painted white. Several instructors tried out the new skis on Cooper Hill...In the soft snow they dived better than a submarine. In a week we had 2 instructors with broken legs. I proposed to Gen. Rolfe that Groswood Ski Co. of Denver ridge-top the flat top of the skis so they would flex like normal skis. He approved. The skis came out with a perfect flex. After finishing the skis, Groswood burned his brand on top of the original manufacturer's name...This is how Groswood got credit for manufacturing most of the Army skis. The Colorado Historical Museum's 10th Mountain collection has several pairs but none of the original flat tops.

HUT SYSTEM 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association celebrated its 25th Anniversary on January 20, 2007 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The 10th manages 29 backcountry huts in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Connected by 350 miles of designated routes, the huts and trails are all accessible via intermediate ski-touring trails. The name Hut System honors the men of the 10th Mountain Division who trained during WWII at Camp Hale in Central

Colorado. Hut visitors share the special spirit of these individuals, especially their pursuit of excellence, self-reliance, and love of the outdoors. Members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter who attended the celebration were photographed (below) while singing "Ninety Pounds of Rucksack." They are, (left to right): **Earl Clark, Jacques Parker, Hugh Evans, Orville Tomky, John Litchfield, Ralph Ball, and John Tripp.**



SKI HALL OF FAME

Dick Wilson (85-M)

Tom West, President of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame, wrote a glowing tribute to veterans of the 10th Mountain Division who had been honored as inductees into the ski hall of fame. The article appeared in the September 2006 issue of *Skiing Heritage*, official publication of the International Skiing History Association. Inadvertently, the article listed a couple of prominent skiers who had not served with the 10th Mountain Division. And on the other hand, West had correctly included a couple of 10th Mountain Division veterans' names that I had omitted in an inductee roster several years earlier. Through an exchange of messages, we succeeded in pulling together the complete roster of the 34 Tenth Mountain Division veterans whose names now appear in the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame. The list below includes the veterans' unit and year of induction.

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION WWII VETERANS IN U.S. NATIONAL SKI HALL OF FAME, ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN

- | | |
|--|---|
| Atwater, Monty , 1979 (87-HQ-2; 87-HQ-1; MTG) | Matt, Toni , 1967 (MTG) |
| Bennett, Nelson , 1986 (87-I) | Maurin, Lawrence , 1966 (MTG) |
| Broomhall, Wendall , 1981 (87-A) | Mikkelsen, Roy , 1964 (87-E) |
| Brown, William R. "Sarge" , 1990 (86-L) | Parker, Robert W. , 1985 (87-HQ) |
| DesRoche, Ralph A. "Doc" , 1977 (85-B) | Pederson, Ernest O. , 1968 (87-HQ) |
| Elvrum, John , 1968 (86-HQ) | Perrault, Paul Joseph , 1971 (126-ENG) |
| Engen, Sverre , 1971 (86-A) | Pfeifer, Friedl , 1980 (87-A) |
| Engl, Sigi , 1971 (87-G) | Prager, Walter , 1977 (87-HQ-3) |
| Foeger, Luggi , 1973 (86-HQ) | Schneider, Herbert , 1992 (86-HQ) |
| Janss, William C. , 1979 (10 Recon) | Seibert, Pete , 1984 (86-F) |
| Jay, John , 1981 (MTG) | Sorensen, Harald "Pop" , 1973 (87-B) |
| Jennings, H. Devereaux "Dev" , 1989 (85-I) | Taylor, Clif , 1979 (86-C) |
| Judson, David, Jr. , 1992 (86-I) | Tokle, Torger , 1959 (86-A), KIA 1945 |
| Knowlton, Steve P. , 1975 (86-HQ) | Teichner, Hans "Peppi" , 1967 (87-L) |
| Litchfield, John , 2002 (Div HQ) | Torrissen, Birger , 1971 (87-HQ-3) |
| Livermore, Robert (87-HQ-2; MTG) | Townsend, Ralph 1975 (87-K) |
| | Woodward, John 1998 (87-HQ-1) |
| | Wren, Gordon , 1958 (87-E) |

HOW I GOT INTO THE SKI TROOPS

Gerry Cullinane's episode is taken from his memoir: "From Student to Soldier: My War Years...1941-1945."

Gerry Cullinane (87-F). In the fall of 1942 *Life Magazine* featured on the cover a photo of **Walter Prager (87-HQ-3, 10 Recon)**, the former ski coach at Dartmouth College and then a master sergeant in the mountain infantry. He was shown on a glacier at Mt. Rainier with crampons, ice axe and everything else. That got me excited. I thought, "Boy, this is for me!" I submitted my three letters of recommendation and received notification from the National Ski Patrol that I had been accepted for the mountain troops. Since voluntary enlistments had been shut down, the only way to enlist was to volunteer for induction through your local draft board. This I did on instructions from the Ski Patrol. After induction I would be sent to Camp Hale, Colorado.

On January 19, 1943 I reported for induction into the U.S. Army. After a day or two of Army orientation we received our orders sending us to wherever the gods had deemed. In my case I knew where I was going: to the Ski Troops! With my letters of recommendation and notification of assignment, I could hardly wait. Imagine the shock and surprise I had when I learned I was headed for Camp White, Medford, Oregon instead of Camp Hale, Colorado. I had failed to make the minimum weight (for my height) for general service. I was thus classified for "Limited Service," which meant assignment to Base service units such as Military Police or hospital orderly or some such job. I became an MP at Camp White where I was destined to spend the next five months. Meanwhile, I determined to eat and eat and eat in an effort to gain weight and get reclassified.

I was given guard duty at the stockade. The little guardhouses were about as big as an outhouse. I had a midnight to 4:00 a.m. stretch, and in order to stay awake I began drawing on the wall of the guard shack. I drew a small picture of a soldier skier going downhill with rifle and pack. Above the skier I wrote "\$50.00 reward" and under the skier "to anyone who can get me out of this outfit and transferred to Camp Hale, Colorado." And I signed my name. A day or two later when I had the same post during a day watch, the lieutenant in charge of our unit came to inspect. He looked inside the guardhouse and guess what he saw! He turned to me and said, "Did you write that?" Since I had signed my name there was little I could say other than, "Yes Sir." He asked me why I had written it and it gave me the opportunity to tell him the whole story of how I was railroaded to Camp White instead of to the Mountain Training Center in Colorado. I have been forever grateful to him because he immediately arranged for me to appear at the hospital for reclassification. I could not believe my good luck. Three Army doctors asked me a number of questions regarding my request. I guess I had gained a couple of pounds. I answered their questions confidently and to their satisfaction because in a day or two I was called to our company orderly room and told I was being transferred to Camp Hale. I have rarely been happier in my life than the day I broke out of Camp White.

In June 1943 I took the train out of Camp White on my way to the Mountain Training Center of the U.S. Army. I arrived at Camp Hale with a couple of others I did not know and we were driven a mile or so into the camp proper. I was assigned to the 86th regiment, Co. H. Since I had been in the service about five months, I had already been promoted to Private First Class, which was a big deal to some of the others who had just arrived from civilian life. The camp struck me as beautiful!

Bob Carlson (86-L). It all started in December of 1939 when I was turning 15 years of age at Smiley Junior High School. A group of mostly East Denver High School students were gathering each Saturday of the winter for bus trips for kids who wanted to learn how to ski from local ski pioneer Frank Bulkley. I found a pair of skis in our basement left there by a cousin. Not knowing anything about ski equipment, I took the skis to the first bus trip of the season. The trouble was they were about 8 feet long, no edges and leather strap bindings. When I showed up the famed Frank Bulkley told me never to come back until I got some skis I could control. The next week at Gart Brothers I found a pair of Silver Streak ridge top skis with cable bindings and steel edges. As I used these skis, I did my best to become as good a skier as possible. Into my second year of lessons, I took first aid lessons in order to join the Junior Ski Patrol and be trained to aid the Senior Patrollers. I continued in this effort until the winter of 42-43. As I turned 18 in December 1943, I received the inevitable draft notice. The 10th Mountain had achieved a lot of publicity by that time so I decided that nearby Camp Hale should be the first priority for my military service. I gathered the required letters of recommendation from 3 National Ski patrollers with whom I was well acquainted: Ed Taylor, Art Kidder Sr. and Fred Bellmar. Art Kidder was truly remarkable as a one-legged, super-strong patrolman who skied with ski pole baskets on crutches. His daughter Barbara was one of the very best female skiers in the country. In June 1943 I reported to the induction center at Fort Logan. I was indeed given orders to ride the train to Camp Hale. Upon arrival, another inductee, **Bob Mahony (86-L)**, and I were to report to Company L of the 86th. Imagine my surprise when entering the barracks, the soldier checking us in was **Sam Bulkley (86-L, F, & A)**, brother of Frank. Sam and I had played on the same baseball team at East High School. The rest is history as I remained in that company the entire time until discharged in November 1945.

CLIMBING THAT MOUNTAIN

Hugh W. Evans (85-A,C)

All of us have climbed mountains and today have 'mountains' to climb. They just take different forms. On March 19, 2007 I did climb Homestake Peak, 13,209 ft., for probably the last time. The occasion was part of my celebration of having trekked into Tenth Mountain Division Huts with Tenth Veterans for 18 years. **Newc Eldredge, 85-L**, started me on these adventures in 1989. He had started hut tripping the year before. This year Newc had some excuse about a heart valve replacement so could not make it.

Bob Thompson, 86-B, John Imbrie, 85-C and I made up the Veterans' Section of this 2007 trek into the Tenth Mountain Division Hut, 11, 370 ft. We ski-packed (30- to 40-pound packs) 4.4 miles on March 18 along with 12 others: Dave and Jane Christie (Desc. 85-F), Tim Davis, Andrew Hudson, Matt Sugar, Elizabeth Williams, LTC Marvin Meek and four University of Colorado ROTC students — Ryan Swisher, Maron Kim, Peter Linsheid and Chris Campbell. Doug Whitehead of CBS joined us to tell our story on CBS, Channel 4, on April 28, 2007.

Of course we had to start the night before at the Leadville Silver Dollar Saloon.

After being properly broken in, we moved across Main Street to Quincy's for a roast beef dinner. That was after the Evans-Imbrie-Williams local Safeway shopping trip for the six meals for 15 persons. We did not have too many disagreements on what to buy.

March 18 we were up early for breakfast at the Golden Burro (really the Brass

Ass) and at the trailhead at 9:00 AM. The ski-in took us, including lunch, about four hours. I was greeted with birthday (83) presents from Ted and Carol Billings (Tenth Mountain Hut managers) — a chocolate cake, two big bottles of Jim Beam and a case of beer all tied together with balloons. Who could ask for more? The young went out that afternoon for some ski adventures. It was then dinner and bed about 9:00 PM. The conversations were wild and free flowing. There was much discussion on 'deterministic' (planned) versus 'stochastic' (random) events. We decided these hut trips were definitely stochastic. There is nothing like the huts for solving the world's problems.

We were up with the sun on Monday and all except Bob and John thought they would go for Homestake Peak. The young and not so young made it to the top about noon, the old man about an hour later, but he was very proud of himself. Dave Christie and Tim Davis found their way back home via the Continental Divide around Slide Lake. The old man and those he was escorting got back about 3:00 PM after being lost for awhile in the woods at the base. The ROTC bunch built a ski jump off one of the Homestake Peak couloirs and spent the rest of the afternoon playing around. That night it was Evans' cornpone pie for dinner. Tuesday we were again up early and out by noon. It was a great trip with great company and beautiful weather. We are going to do it again on March 15, 2008. We will trek into the Fowler/Hilliard Hut, 11,500 ft., up above Camp Hale near Ptarmigan Peak. Ya' all come!



Climbers are, top row, l to r: Chris Campbell, LTC Marvin Meek, Ryan Swisher, Peter Linsheid, Maron Kim; bottom row, l to r: John Imbrie, Hugh Evans, Bob Thompson

IMPORTANT DATE!
NATIONAL REUNION
IN DENVER
AUGUST 2-5, 2007

NEW COMMANDING GENERAL AT FT. DRUM

Major General Michael L. Oates is now serving as Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Ft. Drum, New York. Maj. Gen. Oates graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1979. He holds a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. His military schooling



Major General Michael L. Oates

includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College and the Naval War College. Most recently, Maj. Gen. Oates served as Deputy Commanding General (Operations), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, Iraq.

LETTER FROM AFGHANISTAN

Gentlemen of the 10th Mountain Division (Lt) Veterans Ski Team:

I am sorry that I was unable to make it home for this year's Hannes Schneider Cup Race at Cranmore. I am currently stationed in Herat, Afghanistan as a member of an embedded training team with the Afghan National Army. Much like the advisor programs of Vietnam, I am living, eating, training and conducting missions with a mixture of Afghan and American Soldiers, in an effort to assist the Afghan government to become a functioning democracy in a region riddled by wars. There are a number of other former members of the 10th Mountain Div. (LT) alongside me on this mission.

We meet with our Afghan counterparts daily and help them plan, resource, manage and execute their training as well as their combat missions throughout Afghanistan. We are experiencing great success in the western region of the country, which is evident by the number of women's schools and the improvements in their infrastructure since I was here nearly 3 years ago.

My current assignment is as the Corps G-5 (Civil Affairs) mentor. Most of my days are filled with village visits and humanitarian assistance projects through out our region, roughly the size of New England. We distribute donated school supplies and clothing from back home and assist the Afghan Army in contracting civilians to build schools, wells, dams, bathrooms and other infrastructure needs in the area. We've had an enormous amount of support from schools, Cub Scout packs, the New York Master's ski racers, religious groups and various other organizations back home. Our gratitude cannot be expressed by simple words and thank you notes. For more information about our mission and what we are doing here, please feel free to contact me by email at ray.gilmore@us.army.mil.

To **John Woodward, Dick Calvert, Herbie Schneider** and the rest of the ski racers in the ranks, I look forward to seeing you again next season on the hill at Cranmore and throughout the Masters Racing Circuit as a member of the 10th Mountain Division (LT) veterans' team, if you will have me.

Ski Fast and Play Hard. Climb to Glory.

Ray S. Gilmore, CPT, EN, Team 9805; www.team9805.com

THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LIGHT) SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mike Plummer (10 Lt.)

The Ft. Drum chapter has a new web site for the 10th Mountain Division Scholarship Fund: www.10mntdivscholarshipfund.org. With 110 Tenth Light soldiers killed in action, over 1,100 wounded in action, and almost 10,000 still in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, the need is now and growing. Five \$5,000 scholarships will be presented for this academic year, and five more are planned for next year. Your support today is greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to the "10th Mt. Div. (Light) Scholarship Fund" and mail to Mike Plummer, Ft. Drum Chapter, 121 paddock Street, Watertown, NY 13601. Also, please keep us in mind

during your estate planning reviews.

Another way to support the scholarship fund and preserve a place in the history of the 10th for a fallen warrior, a mountain buddy, a family member, a friend, or for you, is to purchase a brick for the Memorial Walk at Ft. Drum near the Military Mountaineer statue. Bricks are 4" x 8" and can have up to three lines of text with 14 characters per line. The cost is \$25.00, with all profits going to the Scholarship Fund. To purchase a brick, send details for lettering, along with a check made out to the Ft. Drum Chapter, to Craig Boss, 6880 Olmstead Road, Lowville, NY 13362.

MRS. CAPPIELLO'S CLASS: HOME OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Andrea Cappiello (Desc. 85-L)

I was listening to the nightly news when I heard a name that immediately attracted my attention. "Members of the 10th Mountain Division have had their tours of duty extended indefinitely, in Afghanistan." I thought about Charlie Schwab. In 2003, Charlie, or Lt. Charles Schwab as I first knew him, was 1Lt. of Charlie Company, the platoon that the New England Chapter had adopted. He and his platoon, my class and I all became year-long pen pals. It was a fabulous experience for all of us, concluding with a visit to the school from Lt. Schwab. When I heard about the newest development in Afghanistan I had an instant urge to email him and find out if he was OK. Within 5 minutes, he had answered my email and the second chapter of our correspondence began.

We exchanged several emails within the next few days. He told me about how low the morale within the troops was because of their unforeseen extension. He asked me if I would be willing to have my class write to his men again. I readily agreed. He told me that he had been promoted to Captain and he proceeded to send me 439 names of homesick soldiers! With only 130 eighth graders, the challenge was on! I had changed schools and teach in a public, urban middle school in Waterbury, Connecticut in a building called the "Blue House," with approximately 400 students — perfect! The house principal thought it was a wonderful project. My fellow teachers were very supportive and eager to do what they could to help. Soon, I was splitting platoons, passing out soldiers' names, putting up posters and assigning different students and different classes with deadlines. As with the pen-pal project in 2003, this project was taking on a life of its own. The bulletin

board was overflowing with sayings like, "Write to your soldier — it's so easy, even a caveman can do it."

When I approached my own classes of 8th graders, most were willing to write, but some were skeptical. In fact, one particular class didn't want anything to do with this project, until one boy named Shawn said, "My brother is in Afghanistan." I asked if he was in the 10th. He thought so. Sure enough, there he was on the list, Justin Dwyer, A Troop. The next day, Shawn brought in a picture of his brother in Afghanistan. Well, this class soon became quite interested and this picture became the center of my bulletin board. Soon newsletters and emails from Charlie, along with lists of soldiers' names joined it.

Probably the best thing from this project has been Patriotism. These are kids who we had to force to just face the flag, let alone stand and say anything. Now, even half asleep, they stand and make the effort. The building Principal, Mr. Lorusso, proudly made an announcement last week when the 439 soldier letters were sent. He thanked us all, concluding with, "Mrs. Cappiello would like to remind you all to salute the flag, for your soldier." So this project continues until we get out in June or the troops come home, which ever comes first. Charlie plans on coming to the school again, if they get home soon enough. My room won't be hard to find — it's the one that has the poster outside the door that reads, "Mrs. Cappiello's Class, Home of the 10th Mountain Division."

Andrea Cappiello, daughter of Earl Norem (85-L), wrote an article for the Blizzard (2005, No.1) about Charlie Schwab and the pen-pal project between her class and Charlie Company, the New England Chapter's adopted platoon.



Student in Mrs. Cappiello's class in front of bulletin board showing 10th Mountain Division logo and a sign saying "Write Your Soldier."

CHAPTERS VISIT 10TH LIGHT WOUNDED

Mike Plummer (10 Lt)

The Ft. Drum, Metro New York, and Washington, DC chapters recently presented 100 hotel-quality bathrobes to 10th Mountain Division wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (Germany), Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Washington, DC) and Brooke Army Medical Center (Ft. Sam Houston, TX). Each robe has a division patch on the left breast pocket and has become the "must have" item in the wards. When MG Ben Freakley, Commander of the 10th Mountain Division, presented them to the recuperating 10th soldiers during a recent visit, one of them told him, "This is the best gift I have ever received in my entire life." Another soldier told him that he liked it so much that he wanted one for his mother. That kind of says it all. In the pocket of each robe was a note with the following message:

This robe is presented by the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division and the 10th Mountain Division Foundation on behalf of all Americans who understand that freedom isn't free to one of America's wounded warriors. Whether you were wounded by hostile action or in an accident in a hostile environment, you did so in the service of your Country. Thank you for your sacrifice and may God speed your recovery.

These "Climb to Glory Robes" are worn and given with pride. We will continue to provide them until the remaining 400 are gone and then determine if we want to supply more. One of the goals of our Association is to continue the traditions and preserve the honorable legacy of the "men of the 10th." Taking care of today's wounded is part of our effort to accomplish that goal.

In support of this goal, the Washington DC chapters (descendents and veter-

ans) along with Metro NY Chapter's **Bob O'Malley** (85-L) visit our 10th wounded at Walter Reed and provide them with items bearing 10th Mountain Division logo such as hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts. The chapters solicit contributions to pay for some of these items, and some are donated by the National Quartermaster and the Fort Drum Chapter. Bob O'Malley also occasionally provides our warriors with tours of the historical sites of Washington DC. At Walter Reed Hospital on March 21st, Maj. Gen. Freakley presented Bob O'Malley with a Commander's Award for Public Service, along with a medal from the Department of the Army for his 4-year sustained effort in caring for our wounded 10th Light soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Members of the Armadillo Chapter, with Steve Worley (Desc. 10-AT-A), have been visiting our wounded recuperating at Brooke Army Medical Center in Ft. Sam Houston, TX, and will begin giving items with 10th logo to them. In addition, the Fort Drum Chapter has arranged through the 10th Mountain Division Command Group to send logo items to our soldiers in the three major Army medical centers. The items are distributed by the Division point of contact at each facility or by visitors such as Anna Marie Mattson (Desc. 110-SIG), at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany.

Funds for these efforts come from donations from chapters, individuals, and private organizations that just want to do something good for our wounded men. If you want to make a donation you can send it to: Frank Thornton, National Quartermaster, 112 Maple Avenue Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004; or Michael Plummer, President, Ft. Drum Chapter 121 Paddock Street, Watertown, NY 13601.



Soldiers recovering from wounds at Walter Reed Army Medical Center proudly wear their 10th Mountain Division "Climb to Glory" Robes.

10TH LIGHT SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION

Operation Enduring Freedom VII SPC Wilford Flores Jr.
March-April 2007 2-14 INF • March 2007

SPC Christopher M. Wilson
1-32 Inf • March 2007

Sgt Jeremy R. Greene
2-87 Inf • April 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom
September 2006-May 2007

SPC Bobby Callahan
4-31 Inf • September 2006

Lt. John Craver
4-31 Inf • October 2006

SGT Thomas Vandling
1-89 CAV • January 2007

SPC Raymond N. Mitchell III
2-14 INF • January 2007

SGT Paul T. Sanchez
543 MP Co • January 2007

SGT Mickel D. Garrigus
543 MP Co • January 2007

CPT Kevin C. Landeck
2-15 FA • February 2007

SSG Terrence D. Dunn
210 BSB • February 2007

SP4 Brian A. Browning
4-31 INF • February 2007

SGT Shawn M. Dunkin
1-89 CAV • February 2007

SP4 Matthew C. Bowe
1-89 CAV • February 2007

PFC Adare W. Cleveland
1-89 CAV • February 2007

SGT Richard A. Soukenka
2 BSTB • February 2007

SPC Jonathan D. Cadavero
2 BSTB • February 2007

CPL Lorne E. Henry Jr.
2 BSTB • February 2007

SPC Tomas L. Latham
2-14 INF • March 2007

SSG David A. Mejias
2 BSTB • April 2007

SSG Eric R. Vick
2 BSTB • April 2007

SGT William G. Bowling
2 BSTB • April 2007

SGT Robert M. McDowell
2 BSTB • April 2007

SSG Jason R. Arnette
2-14 INF • April 2007

SPC Ryan A. Bishop
4-31 INF • April 2007

CW2 Dwayne L. Moore
2-15 FA • April 2007

SSG Steven R. Tudor
210 BSB • April 2007

CPL Ray M. Bevel
4-31 INF • April 2007

Ryan A. Bishop
4-31 INF • April 2007

SFC James D. Connell
4-41 INF • May 2007

PFC Daniel W. Courneya
4-31 INF • May 2007

PFC Christopher E. Murphy
4-31 INF • May 2007

PFC Joseph J. Anzack
4-31 INF • May 2007

SGT Anthony J. Schober
4-31 INF • May 2007

SGT Jason A. Schumann
3-89 CAV • May 2007

SGT Justin D. Wisniewski
2-15 ARTY • May 2007

SGT Steven M. Packer
2-14 INF • May 2007

PVT Byron W. Fouty
4-31 INF • May 2007 MIA

SP4 Alex R. Jimenez
4-31 INF • May 2007 MIA



Maj. Gen. Benjamin Freakley presents Bob O'Malley with a Commander's Award for Public Service and a medal from the Department of the Army for his efforts in caring for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

AN ARMY WIFE

Jean Cummings

Stanley Cummings (86-A, 85-B) and I were married in the summer of 1940. In 1942, with Uncle Sam breathing down his neck, Stan completed the requirements for his law degree by the time he was drafted. Having obtained his letters of recommendation for the ski troops, he headed for Camp Hale in January 1943. Six months later I joined him.

I spent six days at the Guest House and three days in Leadville (the first night sleeping in the lobby at the Vendome Hotel because there were no rooms) frantically hunting for a job so I could live in Camp. I met Jean and **Jake Nunnemacher** (87-B). Jean was hostess of the officers' wives Guest House for just a week when Jake was reassigned and they left camp. I got Jean's job, which meant that I could live there. Since the officers' wives were only there for week-end occasions, our husbands were allowed to stay overnight with us when they were in camp.

In the fall a job in the hospital lab became available. I had to hitch rides to the hospital but I continued to stay at the Guest House. I loved my hospital job as a histopathologist making microscopic slides of body parts from operations and from autopsies. It was a great group of people to work with, never boring, and the food was great. In the spring we had to take blood samples from about 300 German prisoners who had been brought into camp. They were mostly teenagers, and I thought how lucky they were to be alive, out of the war and well cared for.

During the fall Stan taught me rock climbing. I took to it like a duck to water and loved rappelling down the cliffs. When ski season started it was a different story. I was given a seven-foot pair of GI skis. I am 5'3" tall and had never been on a ski tow. At Cooper Hill Stan kept telling me to just stand and let the T-bar pull me. "Don't sit down" he kept saying. We finally reached the tow and guess what I did! I fell a lot but I don't think I ever fell off a tow again. I finally learned to ski and was 83 when I gave it up.

We went to dances, saw the most recent movies and various celebrities such as Lowell Thomas, Jane Wyman and Joe Louis. We went to Glenwood Springs on weekends where we rode horseback, hiked to Hanging Lake, danced at the USO, soaked in the hot springs and ate big tender steaks. Shortly after arriving at camp, I ran into Jean Barr from my dorm at college. We spent pleasant evenings with Jean and **Jim** (85-HQ-3) at Jean's apartment in Denver and later in Glenwood Springs. After Christmas I moved into the new barracks built next to the hospital for wives working in camp. They were much pleasanter quarters but — we were back to dating. My roommate was Eleanor Prager (wife of **Walter**, 87-HQ-3, 10 RECON) who worked in the lab office. I also met Lucille Butler and her husband **Roger** (85-I, 85-SVC) who took us to their home in Steamboat Springs on occasion.

In February 1944 the boys were out on maneuvers on Cooper Hill with live ammunition. Stan and **Torger Tokle** (86-A) were the only two from the squad

to return under their own power. One severed foot and one dead soldier were brought to the hospital. I still remember how I panicked when I thought it was Stan, but it was not. Stan returned on a Friday night and had a furlough starting Saturday. By noon we had embarked on a hitchhiking trip to the West Coast and back.

We girls watched the blizzard from the warmth of our rooms, as we worried about our husbands out on the "D" Series. One night we heard that they were bivouacked near camp. Lucille Butler drove us to the area. Much to my embarrassment, one of the boys shouted up the mountain, "Stan Cummings, your wife is here." It worked. About 10 minutes later he appeared and I was able to give him a quick hug and a few goodies I'd brought from camp.

In June, the 10th was transferred to Camp Swift, Texas. Stan was assigned to escort several officers' wives in their cars on the trip down and I was allowed to join them. By arriving early, I landed a job in the hospital once again, thus qualifying for quarters. I ran into Jean and Jake Nunnemacher and I was able to acquire a two-bedroom sparsely furnished apartment. While I was working, Jean, who was pregnant, made it very livable and our husbands were able to stay with us many nights and weekends.

In July, Stan reported to Ft. Benning, GA for OCS, and, pregnant and with morning sickness, I joined him near the end of August. He graduated just before Thanksgiving, which we spent with my parents in Summit, NJ, the first I had been home in two and a half years. Stan was ordered back to Texas, where he was assigned to 85-B. I wouldn't see him again for over 20 months. Stan was wounded on Mt. Della Spe on April 15th or 16th. He could not rejoin his unit before the 10th came back to the states, and so ended up in the occupation troops with the 88th Division. In August 1946, I packed my trunk and my baby and went to Italy on the Marine Shark. There Stan met his 16-month-old son for the first time. A year later we went home to start our lives in Greenfield, Massachusetts



Stan Cummings meets his 16-month-old son for the first time.

I would never wish that war experience on anyone. It was dreadful and I would not choose to go through it. However, as we were both fortunate enough to have lived through it, I wouldn't want to give up the experience either. I learned to be self-sufficient, to cope with the vicissitudes of life, and to accept the ups and downs. I became a stronger person and learned to travel light, which, as a life-long traveler, has been a convenient lesson.



On behalf of the 10th Mountain Division, Colonel Johnnie L. Knight (on right) presents the "Command Sergeant Major's Award of Excellence" to his father, Master Sergeant William M. Knight.

TWO GENERATIONS OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Johnnie L. Knight (Col, USAR)

When Col. Johnnie L. Knight, a general dentist, arrived in Bagram, Afghanistan on 4 August 2006, he naturally assumed he would be assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital (CSH). Instead he was transferred to the 198th MP Battalion of the 10th Mountain Division. Being assigned to the 10th was a dream come true for the 25-year veteran reservist. Col. Knight's father, Master Sergeant **William M. Knight** (605-A) was one of the original 10th Mountain soldiers when the 10th was formed at Camp Hale, CO in 1942.

While serving his tour, Col. Knight spoke often about his father and the stories his father had shared with him about the 10th and WWII. A friend and fellow soldier, Command Sergeant Major Coffman picked up on the stories and decided that the 10th should present Col. Knight's father with some type of award.

On 13 October, 2006, an awards ceremony was held at the 198th MP Battalion Headquarters in Bagram. Col. Knight accepted, on behalf of his father, the "Command Sergeant Major's Award of Excellence." Sgt. Majors Coffman and Hokkanen presented the award with the blessings of Brigade Commander Col. Rose Miller, Brig. General Tata, Maj. General Benjamin Freakley, and the 10th Mountain Division. When Col. Knight returned from active duty, an awards ceremony was held at VFW Post 1191 in Paducah, Kentucky. Col. Knight presented the Award to his father, Master Sergeant William M. Knight, on behalf of the 10th Mountain Division. A story book ending for both father and son. Presentation of this award to his father was the greatest moment of Col. Knight's 25-year career.

NEW BOOK

THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATER IN WORLD WAR II

[Excerpted from the book jacket].

The Mediterranean theater in WWII has long been overlooked by those who believe it was of minor importance in the war. But in this new book, Douglas Porch, Military Historian, argues that the Mediterranean was, in fact, the pivotal theater in WWII.

In *The Path to Victory: The Mediterranean Theater in World War II*, Porch examines the Mediterranean as an integrated arena that laid the foundation for victory in Europe. Although conventional wisdom argues that Hitler could not have won WWII in the Mediterranean, Porch believes that the Allies might well have lost had they not elected to fight there. Decisions made in this the-

ater matured the Western Alliance, seriously damaged and dispersed the formidable Axis military machine, and forged the combined Anglo-American effort that was to be unstoppable when transferred to Northern Europe in June 1944.

The Middle Sea constituted a strategic piece of a global war; it was a passage that linked far-flung theaters and provided an entry point into southern Germany for two Allied armies. Without a Mediterranean alternative, the Western Allies would probably have committed to a premature Channel invasion in 1943 that might well have cost them the war. Brilliantly argued, this compelling account of a little-known theater emphasizes the importance of the Mediterranean in the ultimate Allied victory in Europe during WWII.

Descendant BLIZZARD

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR DESCENDANTS OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

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SEARCHING FOR SNUFFY

Devon O'Neil

Excerpted with permission from the full article in the December 2006 issue of 5280: Denver's Mile-High Magazine.

THE ELDERLY MAN approached me and asked if I would mind taking a picture. He signaled his three friends to come over and handed me his camera. The men looked a bit old to be skiing way up there. Then I noticed the 10th Mountain Division logo at the tip of each of their skis. I knew that logo — it was the mark of Colorado legends, men to respect. Most important for me, though, it might be a key to my past. I blurted out the same question I'd asked every other 10th veteran I've ever met. "Does the name Robert 'Snuffy' O'Neil ring a bell to any of you?" One of the men swung his head around like he'd heard a ghost. "Snuffy O'Neil, did you say?" Before I could answer, another man repeated the name. "Snuffy O'Neil...why, I haven't heard that name since before the war ended."

Robert "Snuffy" O'Neil (87-K) was my grandfather. He died of a heart attack six months before my twin brother and I were born. It devastated our mother. For as long as I remember, I had been on the hunt for more information about the patriarch I never knew but always heard about. I constantly dropped his name, just in case someone out there might remember him. Until that day at Vail, I'd never had any luck. These men were my first Snuffy connection. They were in town for a 10th Mountain Division reunion tour through Colorado high country. I immediately joined the tour. In so doing I found out more about my

grandfather (and myself) than I ever would've believed was lost.

I introduced myself and began to explain my mission — but before I'd finished my sentence, **Nelson "Nellie" Bennett** (87-I, MTG), took over. "The last time I saw Snuffy he fell 80 feet off a rock cliff and didn't even have a scratch on him!" I carried with me one of the only photographs my brother and I have of our grandfather, taken just before that fall. He has his hemp climbing rope coiled across his shoulder and is standing below the C Street Cliffs at Camp Hale. I showed the photo to Bennett, who explained that he had been standing directly above my grandfather when he fell. "That's Snuffy all right," he said. Bennett told me he and my grandfather were both climbers, and he told me about Snuffy's art, explaining that his work used to run in the *Blizzard*. Another veteran, retired **Lt. Col. Earl Clark** (87-HQ-1), also brought up my grandfather's cartoons, which had been displayed on the wall of the officer's club at Hale. "They had great humor," said Clark. "He took the hardships and made fun out of them for everybody. You couldn't look at what he'd done without getting a smile on your face."

But more than just a funny guy, it turns out my grandfather was a damn good mountaineer, too. **Dick Over** (110-SIG) told me about my grandfather's role in the Mountain Training Group. "The MTG was a very special core group of skiers, rock climbers, and outdoors people — they trained other troops. They tested equipment, they tested systems

continued on page 4



L to R: Nelson Bennett, Earl Clark and Dick Over with photo of Snuffy O'Neil.

DESCENDANT ARTIST DONATES RIVA RIDGE PAINTING FOR NATIONAL REUNION

Interview of Casey Klahn By Tyler Tollman (87-B, Desc)

Q. Casey, what connection do you have to the 10th Mountain Division and how did you get involved with the Foundation and Descendants?

A. My late father, Pfc. **Kenneth Klahn** was in the Division. He served at Camp Hale, Colorado, overseas in North Italy, and all the way to the deactivation of the division. I remember that we came across the Association together in the 1970s, and my Dad became a member for one year, 1974, I think, but nothing ever came of it.

Q. What unit was your father in?

A. 1st Gun Section, C Battery, 605th Field Artillery Battalion (Pack). He was a muleskinner, and he was a .50 caliber machine gunner. My Dad was in the Field Artillery, which had him in action behind our infantry, but he also supported the riflemen by being up on the front lines firing his .50 heavy machine gun.

Q. When you think of the 10th Mountain Division, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

A. Excellence. Originality. Super Fitness. The Tenth didn't define soldier fitness in WW II — they were in a category way beyond that. I think about leadership, and initiative. Like one narrator has said, there never was another organization like the Tenth Mountain Division.

Q. How was it that you became a professional painter?

A. I guess I had an early mid-life crisis about ten years ago, and decided that I had to go full-time as an artist as a "now-or-never" thing. I have been an artist since I began drawing at age four. Of course, every little kid is an artist, but when my parents gave me a brush and some paints, and I painted an Army tank in profile, the result was the start of a lifetime of drawing with a pencil for hours a day, nonstop, for years. Now, I've been in some nice galleries, and have been juried into some very strictly vetted art fairs. I recently have been juried-in to the prestigious Pastel Society of America

Q. What inspired you to paint Riva Ridge?

A. I wanted to choose a scene that will

"read" immediately to the viewer — something that is instantly understood for what it is and also for what it symbolizes. Riva Ridge wasn't the only action to take place for the division, but it symbolizes the dramatic and unambiguous offensive energy that the 10th Mountain Division introduced into the Italian Campaign. If the Allies were a little sleepy after the winter months in a static front, I think everyone was wide awake — Germans and Allies alike — after the Riva Ridge Assault. The Riva Ridge battle has that kind of history-making power as an event.

Q. How did you come to the decision to donate a painting for the 10th Reunion in August 2007?

A. I like to try to make a donation somewhere with my art every year. I've had the passion, as the Italians say, to do this very artwork for some time. I have more of an interest in doing something for the Descendants organization than I do for opening a new market by putting it up for sale.

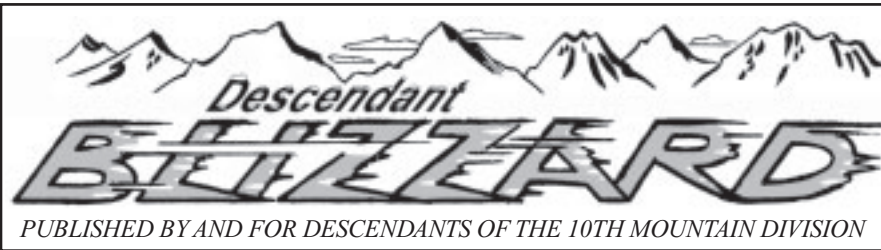
Q. Will prints/copies of the donated painting be available as well?

A. I don't make prints of my current stuff. But the Riva Ridge drawing will be a different sort of thing. I guess I'll have to do a study of that, and see if I can make it work. I'll try and figure it out before I send the original to Colorado in August, though.

Q. What is your next 10th Mountain inspiration we can look forward to?

A. I kind of alluded to the series of G.I.s before. When I was in the service, we all had that picture of the G.I. in the back of our minds. Tough; easy-going; able; liberator — these words all come to mind. I want to draw those narrative images that we can all recognize in the image of the G.I. And, I want to start with the Mountaineers — the Ski troopers, who (you won't be surprised when I tell you) I think were the greatest of the greatest generation.

You can see examples of Casey's work at these sites: <http://thecolorist.blogspot.com/2007/02/italian-landscape-sketches.html> and <http://100italianpaintings.blogspot.com/2007/03/drawing-today.html>.



The *Descendant Blizzard* is edited by Bryan Pullen. Descendants: News, stories, announcements, letters, photos etc. are most welcome — this is your *Blizzard*! Contact Bryan Pullen at 708 S. 6th Street, Davis, OK 73030 or email: bryanpullen@cablone.net.

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(* denotes Executive Committee)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

ALL ROADS LEAD TO DENVER!

As the "Hale and Farewell" reunion rapidly approaches I wish to urge all descendants to attend this special event. It may very well be the final opportunity to be with so many of our WWII 10th veterans. The reality is harsh. We are losing so many of our dear 10th friends and this is likely to be the last event in which so many of the 10th veterans will be gathered in one place. Please join us in saluting and honoring them!

Knowing the Legacy. Many descendants have been fortunate to know the story of their father, uncle, or grandfather who served with the 10th. But there are others who were not as fortunate. Some never knew their fathers because they were killed in action. Others never had the opportunity to learn about their 10th history because many of our WWII 10th veterans returned home and never wished to speak about that period of their lives again. So for many descendants there remains a void in knowing the history of the 10th and the stories of our veterans.

The Hale and Farewell reunion will provide an opportunity to be in the midst of our esteemed veterans; to listen to their stories, to hear once again or for the first time, that time in their lives when they were once young and went to war. There will be regimental and unit dinners where we will be able to be with other men who served alongside our 10th veteran. The Living History group will display gear and equipment used by our 10th veterans during WWII. Tours of the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center will be available and a special trip to Camp Hale is planned on Monday, August 6th. Yes, "Hale and Farewell" will provide opportunities for descendants to better know the legacy of the 10th. This is an event you won't want to miss!

Preserving the Legacy. Since its inception, Descendants Inc. has continued to increase in membership. To date we have close to 1,000 members and many more contacts are in our database. Kate Raabe and Pat Thornton, my two predecessors, worked diligently to organize Descendants Inc., and develop its membership into a very special and unique organization. I believe we are the **only** national organization of descendants of WWII veterans. The task at hand is both immediate and challenging. As we witness the transition of the 10th Mountain Division Association, it will be of extreme importance that we remain faithful to our mission and vision statement:

Mission Statement: The 10th Mountain Division Descendants Inc., is an organization made up of the children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, etc. of the WWII 10th Mountain Division Soldiers. We have come together with the goal of preserving the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division and to give our support to the veterans and their wives and widows of the 10th Mountain Division National Association.

Vision Statement: The enduring significance of the war and peacetime contribution of the men of the WWII 10th Mountain Division depends upon their descendants' knowledge of the events, values and actions that shaped their lives. The challenge to successive generations of the 10th Descendants is to celebrate this legacy by establishing commonalities with the experiences of their 10th ancestors and forging links to the historical past.

As a means to meet this challenge, Descendants Inc. is in the process of finalizing our Action Plan. Last summer at our annual Descendant Board meeting held in Silver Spring, MD, we completed two-thirds of our Action Plan. It is anticipated that the Action Plan will be completed and ratified at our August 2nd Board meeting this summer in Denver. It is hoped that through this Action Plan, the legacy of the WWII 10th Mountain Division soldiers will live in perpetuity!

The Action Plan will be available as part of the registration material at the Hale and Farewell Reunion this summer. Following the reunion it will be posted on the Descendants' website at www.10thmtdivdesc.org

VIRES MONTESQUE VINCIMUS

THE LIFE OF THE USS WEST POINT

Bryan Pullen (Desc. 85-M)

Not unlike many young men of the time, the *SS America* was recruited into United States military service and like many of these young men it was labeled with a new moniker. It wasn't that of Private, Corporal or Sergeant but that of *USS West Point*.

As the *SS America*, it was the premier cruise ship of the day. The nation's First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt christened it before a crowd of 30,000 cheering spectators. The following day Hitler invaded Poland and set forth events that would shorten the *SS America's* reign as "Queen of the luxury liners".

The *SS America* reported for military service in June 1941 by returning immediately to the shipyards where she was born. It took just eleven days to convert her to the Navy's largest troop carrier. The Navy officially commissioned the ship as the *USS West Point* but she was affectionately nicknamed "The Gray Ghost" by its crew.

"The Gray Ghost" nickname derived from two features of the renovated ship. First, it was a reference to the fresh gray and blue camouflage paint job it received. Second, it was homage to the capabilities of the ship's speed and elusiveness. However, the strength of the ship's speed presented a weakness. Too fast for any accompanying ships, the *West Point* often traveled unescorted, which did not afford it any protection.

The *USS West Point* was given orders to transport members of the 10th Mountain Division's 85th and 87th regiments to Italy. On January 4, 1945 the soldiers who had endured the three-day train ride from Camp Swift were assigned bunks and herded aboard the ship. Upon boarding ships, the soldiers' pay increased by twenty percent. For example a Private's monthly pay increased from \$54 to \$64.80. For many of the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division this was their introduction to sea travel. The crowded living conditions, rhythmic bobbing of the waves and continual zigzagging of the ship made it very difficult for many soldiers to keep down a meal. PFC Bud Sutton recalled, "I guess the fear and dread of where we were going had a lot to do with people getting sick on the way over." This uncertainty of what was to come surely wore hard on the hearts, minds and subsequently on the stomachs of the soldiers.

The *USS West Point* was decommissioned in early 1946 and despite rumors of being sunk seven times, returned safely to harbor. Overall, the ship completed 145 missions, made 41 Atlantic crossings and 15 across the Pacific and carried 505,020 passengers. Returned to United States

Lines and once again named *America*, the ship was restored to her previous specifications and finally took her long-awaited maiden voyage to Europe as a luxury liner. She continued her service as the *America* until 1964 when Chandris Lines purchased her for use to transport immigrants from England to Australia under the name *RHMS-Australis*.

The *Australis* transported over 300,000 immigrants to their new home prior to being sold to an American company in 1978. This was a failed business venture that offered cruises to Halifax and Nassau, again sailing under the name *America*. Interestingly, Chandris Lines re-purchased the liner in 1979 and the name was changed to *Italdis*. During this time the ship offered Mediterranean cruises from Genoa and Barcelona but by the end of the year the ship was out of service and was anchored in Greece. During this time the ship changed ownership several times. In 1980 its new owners named it *Noga*. Then in 1984 it was sold again and named *Alferdoss*. After a botched business deal to sell the ship for scrap, it was sold to a Thai company in 1994. They intended to anchor the ship off the coast of Phuket and convert it into a hotel.

The *American Star* was being towed to Thailand and as the ship approached the Canary Islands, inclement weather settled in causing rough seas. The tow-lines snapped under the stress of the ship being tossed side to side. In the early morning of January 18, the *American Star* ran aground on the west coast of the island Fuerteventura. The ship broke in two forty-eight hours after it beached. Declared a total loss, it was abandoned to the elements. Worked by the tides, the stern section eventually succumbed to the ocean and submerged completely, but not before locals looted the ship of all its brass, wood and remaining artwork.

The bow section for years has defiantly stood against the elements but as recently as April 2007 the starboard side collapsed. The remainder of the ship is slowly sinking and falling into the Atlantic. Despite the towing disaster, the ship may have been given an extension of life. No one will ever know if the *American Star* would have survived the devastating tsunami off the coast of Phuket on December 26, 2004 where it was to be anchored. While some may see this as an ignoble end to a great ship, others may find comfort knowing the fine ship that was once the *USS West Point* avoided the scrap yards and rests at home in waters where she performed her most important missions, quietly living out her final days.



The U.S.S. West Point in 1944. Note how the camouflage paint job blends into the wake.

SOLDIER'S DIARY

Karen Woodard (Desc. 616-FA-A)

Following are excerpts from the diary of my father, Charles J. McCarthy (616-FA-A), April to August 1945.

- April 14. The division attacked this morning. What a day! Still out on the O.P. [observation point] — may be relieved tomorrow; I hope so. Saw Jinks today. He was a worried lad.
- April 15. My first wedding anniversary. This morning I laid in a foxhole wondering what next year will be like.
- April 16. Had a little peace last night after being relieved from the O.P., but that didn't last long — at 2315 a call came in for one officer to go out as F.O. [forward observer]. I'm it. I'm sweating it out. I'm now waiting to attack. p.s. I received the greatest piece of advice today of my life. "Stay with the Company Commander and keep low." Lt. Hansen.
- April 17. Attack, attack! All day long! It's rough going but all is OK up to now.
- April 21. We've been moving pretty fast all day and everyone is about to drop. A few firefights but nothing much. Front was bombed by a Heinkel 109. Cpl. Ritter was hit by artillery.
- April 23. Moved about 25 mi. or more to the banks of the Po River. The enemy is close. Tonight a series of bombings by two Jerry planes. Despite the fact, I wrote two letters tonight by candle light in a foxhole. Jerry is surely on the run.
- April 24. Sgt. Mannefeld was killed early last night by 30 mm. A.A. [anti-aircraft] coming from across the Po. This morning another of our men was killed. This is the first I've heard of using small A.A. on personnel. Box from mom and plenty of letters. Can't answer tonight.
- April 25. Today we drove to within 20 km of Verona. The faster we go the better I'll like it. Tomorrow morning

we'll see the Alps! The faster we move the shorter the war. I'll be seeing you 'Nette.

- April 26. We didn't get to Verona. We bivouacked on the outskirts. The Alps look plenty formidable. The plan is to go the Brenner Pass. Tonight we were supposed to go to Fornace, but had to go into position south of the river. Rain set in. Wrote to Jeannette and mom and dad.
- April 28. Received orders to report to Division as Traffic Control Officer — G2. We are now on Lake Garda — it is beautiful. The villa is new and plenty spacious.
- April 30. Have been pretty busy for the past day or so. I like this job quite well but I don't think it will last long. Biggins got me a Russian 30 cal. automatic today and is going to see about a P38. Finished the letter to Jeanette. Pretty tired tonight.
- May 2. Was relieved of my job with division HQ. It was a good job well done, so says Col. Irvin. PFC Earl Mills, ASN 37559810, (616-FA-C), pulled the lanyard on the last round fired in the Italian Theater at 1845 today. The war in Italy is officially finished!
- May 9. Today is VE day! All German armies surrendered and will not fight again. Now let's get Japan! We had the day off. Bought 'Nette and mom some stuff today.
- August 2. We boarded the boat today at noon. We sail at 1500. General McNarney gave us a farewell speech. This 10th Mtn. Div. is surely a hot outfit. We (the WO's and 2nd Lts) have quarters in the hold! A lovely voyage this is going to be. Farewell to Italy.
- August 11. Sighted land at 0950. It surely looked good. Got off the boat at 1800. Went to Camp Pat. Henry for a good meal with lots of milk. Sent 'Nette a telegram.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR REUNION ACTIVITIES

There are still some National Reunion events that could use some volunteers. If you can offer your services to any of these events please send an email to the following:

- **Oral History volunteers:** abbiekealy@hotmail.com or mchofcarmel@sbcglobal.net
- **Descendant Program volunteers:** danwhitemore@comcast.net (Colorado)
- **Reunion Job volunteers:** debvolunteers@comcast.net (Colorado)

IMPORTANT DATE!

**NATIONAL REUNION
IN DENVER
AUGUST 2-5, 2007**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Kate Raabe (Desc. 86-MED)

10th Mountain Division Descendants, Rocky Mountain Chapter, would like to encourage you to give serious consideration to attending the Hale and Farewell reunion, to be held in our backyard during the first week of August. We would love to be your hosts and tour guides! The veterans have said this is the last reunion they are planning. If you have been to a 10th reunion before, you know how special they are, and you won't want to miss this one! If you haven't been to one before, this is the last chance you and your children will have to be part of such a unique experience.

In addition to honoring and spending time with our remaining 10th veterans, traveling to Camp Hale and the Tennessee Pass memorial, viewing exhibits from the Resource Center, rubbing shoulders with the 10th Mountain Division reenactors, and having a room full of quartermaster items to purchase, we have also made a special effort this year to do some additional planning for descendants in attendance. There will be a golf outing, an "after party" for adult descendants following the welcome banquet, a dance following the regimental dinners, and an evening in downtown Denver Saturday

night, including multiple restaurant and entertainment options and a trip on our new light rail rapid transit system. Other tours can be arranged as well.

Bring your family and make this part of your summer vacation! There is a fabulous children's registration price of only \$90! Spend some additional time in colorful Colorado either before or after the reunion to appreciate the Rocky Mountains and explore the many sightseeing opportunities available for visitors to our tourist-friendly state. The nightly room rate at the headquarters hotel is only \$59 plus tax! And, although you will note that the registration materials states that the reunion registration cost jumps after June 2, we have been able to extend the base rate up until July 2nd. There is still time to send in your registration at either price! Do it now! Please join us for this not-to-be missed opportunity.

For a copy of the registration form, go to the News and Events section of the 10th Mountain Division website, at www.10thmtdivassoc.org. If you need additional information, contact Don Palmer at 303-847-6747, dhpalmer@aol.com; or Debbie Gemar at 303-513-0093, debbiegemar@hotmail.com.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

The annual Riva Ridge/Belvedere Day Luncheon was held Saturday, February 24th, in Laguna Hills, CA. It was a nice day for veterans, descendants, and guests in attendance. The luncheon was preceded by a meeting of the Southern California Association Chapter veterans. **Howard Harvey** (86-I, 86-M), filled in as MC for SC President **Howard Koch** (86-C). A special thank you was given to Diane (Desc. 85-C), Milt and Jason Fisher for design and publication of the Southern California Chapter "Rucksack." It is a very nice newsletter!

Following the luncheon a discussion was held regarding the Chapter Director

vacancy, and with the support of descendants present, Mary Roddick Ghan (Desc. 85-K), was elected Chapter Director. Descendant President Val Rios shared information regarding the Descendant Action Plan and how this plan will focus on preserving the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division WWII veterans. Everyone was encouraged to attend the upcoming Denver Reunion.

In attendance were descendants, Greta and Cade Meyerhof, Cyndi Ripley True, Diane, Jason and Milt Fisher, Pamela Mason Wagner, Kathleen Finn Jones, Mark Wenger, Mary Roddick Ghan, and Val Rios.



Front row, l to r: Val Rios, Greta and Cade Meyerhof, Cyndi Ripley True, Diane Fisher, Pamela Mason Wagner, Kathleen Finn Jones. Back row: Jason & Milt Fisher, Rick Clark, Mark Wenger, Mary Roddick Ghan.

2007 TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION BIATHLON

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

On Sunday, March 24, 2007, approximately 80 people gathered at Boreal Ridge for the annual 10th Mountain Division Biathlon sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter. The day was absolutely beautiful. This year there were 63 contestants in the various divisions. There was even one descendant who participated in the event, Conrad Rios (Desc. 87-K), and while I won't

say where he placed out of the 63 contestants, I can tell you that he hit all his targets in the shooting portion of the Biathlon.

Special thanks go to **Chelton Leonard** (86-E) who is the event coordinator. Thanks go also to the Auburn Ski Club. Members of their club take care of all the management details for the event. They are an awesome group!



L to R: Chuck Hardesty, Cruz Rios, Val Rios, Dominic Rios, Jacob Rios

SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER Descendants at Sierra Nevada Annual Picnic



L to r: Paul and Diane Harpainter, Samantha Gruys, Ellen Davison, Myrna Hampton, Dave Burdick, Val Rios, Matt Harpainter.

Searching for Snuffy, from page 1

of climbing, they tested all sorts of things." "He's one of the few guys I remember," said **Andre Benoit** (86-B). As for Snuffy, he taught skiing in Aspen after getting out of the service and eventually moved to New England, where he raised two daughters in the house he and my grandmother built with their own hands. Growing up, I pictured him almost like a character in one of his cartoons. He had that silly name, and in his pictures, the hulking, strong body and dimpled smile. But I never knew much else about the man behind that grin.

After talking to the 10th veterans that week, I realized they have a humility and

reservation about their past, too. It's an unspoken authenticity that would be no more obvious if they wore a badge on their forehead. I'd like to think Snuffy was just like them, a man among legends. As I watched those graying men make their graceful turns down the mountain in front of me, I saw my grandfather for the first time. It's good to know Snuffy. And it's good to know that, through him, I've begun to know myself.

Devon O'Neil is the sports editor of the Summit Daily News (Colorado). Devon asks that anyone who knew his grandfather Snuffy O'Neil please contact him at: P.O. Box 1357, Breckenridge, CO 80424. Email: doneil@summitdaily.com.



Quartermaster's Corner
Quartermaster – Frank Thornton (Descendant)

FOR THE 10TH REUNION YOU WILL NOT WANT TO BE WITHOUT:

Blazer patches for your Class A's: \$10.00
10th Mountain Division Neckties: \$45.00
Short-sleeved Golf Shirts with 10th logo: \$25.00
Golf Caps with 10th logo: \$15.00

VISIT THE QUARTERMASTER SUITE AT THE NATIONAL REUNION

Pick up your copy of the DVD of "The Last Ridge," Abbie Kealy's superb documentary on the 10th Mountain Division now showing on PBS stations. DVD: \$20.00

Place your orders with your 10th Quartermaster Frank Thornton.
Email: patfrank4@verizon.net • Phone: 610-667-2911
12 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

See QM CATALOGUE on 10th website: www.10thmtndivassoc.org

RETURN TO ITALY 2009

Following is a letter to John Duffy from Fabrizio Giannozzi of the Florence U.S. Consulate, who is involved in Political and Economic matters for our Consul General. Among Fabrizio's duties are to organize and arrange the Memorial Day ceremony at the Florence American cemetery. His kind offer to encourage Italian Youth groups to join and participate in our 2009 Return-to-Italy ceremony is a wonderful step toward enhancing the enduring friendships we have achieved with the Italians.

Thank you so much for thinking of us and sharing the *Blizzard* with us. It was an honor to be a part of your visit to Italy, to meet some of the members of your distinguished organization and to exchange thoughts and experiences with you all.

I have to confess that the dedication the 10th Mountain Division has shown to the United States and to my country, then and now, truly moves me.

It is wonderful to know that you plan to return to Italy in 2009. We are already looking forward to seeing you. In fact, I was thinking we could give your next visit a new meaning if we organized a meeting occasion with Italian youth groups. If you like the idea, let us discuss it when you come on the advance tour. As you said, we do this mainly for the young ones nowadays.

Sincerely and with affection,

Fabrizio Giannozzi, Florence USA Consulate



American and Italian students meet during the 2006 Sempre Italia tour.

JOIN THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS

It's easy. Go to the web site, www.10thmtndivdesc.org, and click on Descendant Application Form.

NO SOLDIER SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND

Jacob Pollack (85-HQ -2)

We were loaded on trucks at the replacement depot outside of Pisa just after President Roosevelt died. I recognized the 10th Mountain I.D. on the bumper, so I knew I wouldn't be an orphan anymore. The trucks took the switch-back roads with engineers' tape just beyond the wheels and signs indicating mines beyond the tape. We were dropped off near a small mountain. The first sergeant told the eight of us "Dig in and be quiet because the Germans are very close to us." Digging in was four inches of dirt and 400 feet of rock. We ended up sleeping near a parked vehicle. We were with 85-HQ-2 in a heavy weapons platoon with 37 mm and 50 caliber guns. I never saw either in basic training. The men in the platoon were underwhelmed to see us and said, "Here are our replacements and they are going to get us killed." What a greeting! Our platoon was attached to a different line company almost every day. I was ammo bearer to both machine gun and cannon. The men saw that they didn't die so we were OK.

We raced through the Po Valley. We ended our advance in Malcesine just before the Nazis blew up the tunnels. There we stayed until the war ended in Italy on May 2nd. We then moved to occupation duty on the Yugoslavian border. I became a clerk-typist for our platoon leader because I was the only person to raise my hand when he asked if anyone knew how to type. I had this job until we were loaded on trucks to go somewhere — we didn't know where. I was on the last of the trucks, the dustiest place to be. We stopped in a mountain village with a vino joint in the town square. Needless to say, every bottle of vino came off the shelves. At Florence a group of us were sent out on a detail. When we returned, everyone else was gone, cleared out. We were left behind.

A few days later we were put aboard a troop train headed south. As the train came to a high hill we had to disembark, help push the train to the top of the hill, and then reboard. This went on for a couple of days and everyone was filthy dirty and very tired. In a rail yard in Naples, all of our duffle bags were piled

at one end of each rail car. When we awoke, every duffle bag had been stolen. The only thing I owned was the filthy uniform I had on. I was issued new underwear and a clean uniform — that was it.

I was taken to an airfield to board a B-17 bomber. There were 20 GIs to a bomber. The bomb racks were removed and canvas benches were installed on each side of the fuselage. I could go to the plexiglas nose cone. The feeling was like floating on air with an unobstructed view. We flew to Port Lyautey in North Africa and were assigned to tents for a few days. One or two GI's had to take turns staying in the tents because the natives would take anything that wasn't being watched.

My turn came to fly to Dakar. We kept circling the field at Dakar, and finally landed and coasted to the other end of the runway. We knew there was a problem because crash trucks lined the runway. The hydraulic system on the C-54 was out. The plane was repaired and we flew across the Atlantic to Natal, Brazil.

At Natal I was issued a new uniform. We next flew in C-47s along the coast of Brazil to British Guinea and then island hopped through the Caribbean. At a stop we were given a sheet saying that a big bomb was dropped — so many thousand tons of TNT. On the last leg I told the pilot that my brother was a C-47 pilot. It turned out that he and my brother graduated together. We landed in Miami and all the ice cream and donuts we could eat were waiting for us.

A troop train took us to Camp Blanding, FL. After some physicals and showers, we boarded another troop train to Ft. Sheridan. The second bomb was dropped and we all waited near radios in anticipation of the war ending. I got my furlough papers on V-J Day. My girl friend, now my wife of almost 60 years joined me. At Ft. Sheridan I was a clerk-typist writing discharge papers for many of the men from the 10th Mountain Division.

That is the story of my exodus from Italy. It is still very vivid even after all these years.

COMPLETE ASSOCIATION ROSTER FOR SALE AT NATIONAL REUNION

Association Roster 1955 to 2007, by Barbara and John Imbrie (85-C), and John Engle (87-L, 86-G), lists over 8,000 men who joined the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division at any time, and the principal units in which they served.

BLIZZARD SCHEDULE

Issue No.	Period covered	Articles deadline
1	September 06-January 07	January 1
2	February-June	May 1
3	July-December	October 15

SEND MATERIALS TO:

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SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Ray Zelina (605-A)

Belvedere Day is celebrated on both Coasts of Florida. On the West Coast, **Bill Dyer** (87-E) moved the annual boat ride at Sarasota to dry land due to the unsteady sea legs of some guests. On the East Coast, Caroline and **George Rosenfield's** (85-E) open house in Melbourne has become a tradition. They were assisted by son Andy (Desc) and grandson Jared. Temperatures around 50 degrees drove everyone inside. (Yeah! That's cold in Florida.) Helen and **Bud Wiley** (85-C) and Pat and **John Benson** (87-G) came to enjoy the camaraderie and barbecue. **Don Montgomery** (85-F) brought John Lapak to listen to 10th Mountain war stories. **Art Brodeur** (87-M) and **Vince Staknis** (86-E) told tales of the 10th in Italy, **Bill Stewart** (10th Infantry) regaled them with stories of life in Germany during the Cold War. **Sam Somers** (10th Light) entertained with accounts of the division at Fort Drum from 1998 to 2002. Aniceta Staknis, Christina Somers and Carol Zelina listened tolerantly: they heard it all before.

Southern hospitality was upheld at Greenville, South Carolina for spring break on April 27th and 28th. **Ed Van Romer** (87-I) usually hosts the reunion, but he was hospitalized. Coness Gillespie replaced Ed, and did a superb job assisted by Jewel and **Charlie Hunt** (86-C). Charlie displayed his ski trooper carvings and 10th Mountain notebooks.

Barbara and **Wally Moore** (86-H) have missed the last few spring breaks, but happily they were able to come this year. Barbara's sister Teddie DeLony and husband John joined them. **Dick Hawkins'** (85-L) wife Billie passed away in December and is remembered fondly by the chapter members. Dick and Billie were very active in the chapter and attended several national reunions.

The hospitality room draws the members like an ice cream parlor draws kids. Chairman Emeritus **Paul Gunderman** (605-Med) was there with Dolores. Mary and **Bill Weber** (616-HQ) came from New Port Richey, Florida. While Bill has slowed a bit, Mary is as lively as ever. Caroline and **George Rosenfield** (85-E) drove from Melbourne, Florida. En route, Carol and I met them in Georgia for supper. Chatting with the group was Joe Ann and "**Mo**" **Hallgren** (85-C). They had relocated to Texas, but their hearts are with the Southeast Chapter. Mary and **Glen Robinson** (87-M) discovered the Association a few years ago while watching a PBS special on the 10th. They plan to attend every chapter and national function they possibly can. Gerd and **George De Salvo** (85-E) enjoyed the chapter's Southern hospitality.

During one of the nightly Happy Hours in the lobby, some lovely young women in evening gowns escorted by ROTC cadets passed through. One of the cadets had a 10th Mountain patch on his

right sleeve and was mobbed by the veterans. Chris Yankow had two tours in Afghanistan with the 10th and was attending Furman University on his way to a commission. He was invited to our final banquet. Supper that evening was like old times with "**Speed**" **Murphy** (85-G) telling jokes and **Harry Coleman** (86-B) trying to top him. Lorraine Coleman, as she has always done, just rolls her eyes.

Chapter President **Al Partridge** (86-A) took a fall on Friday and bruised his ribs, but like a good trooper, he reported for duty on Saturday and with the help of Cindy presided at the meeting. The members voted to hold only one major meeting a year. Officers for the new fiscal year are Ed Van Romer-President; Ray Zelina-Vice President and Charlie Hunt-Treasurer. **Sam Morrison** (87-HQ-3) from the Metropolitan New York Chapter donated two toy bears for a raffle won by Louise Conway and Mary Weber. Harry Coleman reported that Ed Van Romer has purchased over 3,500 bathrobes and 10th Mountain patches with his own funds for wounded veterans in military hospitals. Contributions to help defray Ed's expenses should be sent to Mike Plummer, 121 Paddock Street, Watertown, NY 13601. "*Robe Donation*" must be noted on the check.

Swelling the ranks at the final banquet were Patty and Gerald Coleman (Desc). **Jack Conway** (85-A) brought Clay Conway (Desc) and Brent Conway (Desc) with his fiancée Hollye. **Ruben Mobley** (87-G) brought Harold and Eugenia Everett. Ed Van Romer's absence was noted with an American flag and an MIA patch at his place setting. George Rosenfield received the Distinguished Service Award and Carolyn the Meritorious Service Award for hosting Belvedere Day Celebrations at their home for many years. For their memorable Belvedere Day Celebrations in New Port Richey, Bill Weber was awarded the Distinguished Service Award and Mary the Meritorious Service Award. Jack Conway received the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of loyal chapter support. Bernice Detwiler (W) and Joann Shahan (Desc) drive from Ohio to attend the chapter functions and deserve their Meritorious Service Awards. Cadet Chris Yankow was applauded for his service in Afghanistan with the 10th. Mary Weber was so taken by the handsome young cadet that she told him her age. She never tells that to anyone. A very special thanks to Coness for her able handling of the reunion. She's a real 10th trooper.

Eileen Joy writes that **Eben** (87-B&D) is 94 years old, but still tries to keep up with the 10th. They live in New Philadelphia, Ohio. In my files, I have a picture of Eileen, with Billie Hawkins and Carol taken at Sun Valley. Enjoy the summer and see you in Denver.

SIERRA NEVADA

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

On Saturday, May 12th, the Sierra Nevada Chapter held its annual picnic on the grounds of Sebastiani Vineyards and Winery located in Sonoma, California. The event was hosted by Chapter President **Bob Yank** (85-K) and his lovely wife Grace. Those in attendance brought snacks to share and there were plenty of good eats to go around. Bob Yank shared information regarding the upcoming Denver Reunion, encouraging everyone to attend if at all possible. Bob and Grace also spoke about the Chapter "Adopt-A-

Platoon" project and how much the 10th Light soldiers have appreciated their gift packages. Mention was also made of the recent passing of Vice President **Tom Curtis** (87-A). Descendant President Val Rios gave an update of the 2007 Biathlon held at Boreal Ridge. He also briefly spoke about the Descendant Action Plan, which will help ensure the legacy of the WWII 10th Mountain Division veterans. Despite a mild chilling wind it was a beautiful day and everyone had a good time!



Sierra Nevada Annual Picnic. Front row, l to r: Bob Yank, Ted Lewis, Bill Cullen. Back row, l to r: Cruz Rios, Gerry Cullinane, Andrew Kadie, Bruno Ghiringhelli, Ted Harpainter, Clyde Carbonneau, Meryl Baxter, Art Schimke.

MIDWEST

Ken Hanson (85-MED-2)

The Midwest chapter celebrated Mt. Belvedere Day on February 17 for the Chicago area at Bloomingdale Golf Club and for the Southeast at General Butler State Park in Carrollton, KY. Fifty people attended at Bloomingdale. Descendants John and Patty LaRocca (**Dick Soutar**, 616-HQ) made the arrangements for the luncheon. The Chicago meeting was conducted by descendants Carl Nawrot and Jerry Jurina. An Elvis impersonator provided entertainment at the Chicago meeting.

Members were saddened by the recent death of **Martin Bockelmann** (126-A) who had been very active over the years.

Ten attended in Carrollton, Ky where 12 had to cancel due to severe weather conditions. **Don Steffen** (604-A) coordinated the Kentucky meeting. Dolores Kuper, wife of **Maurice** (616-HQ) attended with daughter Julie Fuhs and grandson Grant. Clara and **Ken Speedy**

(87-SVC, 87-HQ-3) came with their daughter and son-in-law Shirley and Steve Shields. The group plans to meet again, same time, same place, on February 16, 2008.

The annual spring luncheon in the Chicago area May 6 was held at Diplomat West Banquets in Elmhurst, IL, with preparations made by Desc. Janice Fuglsang. Desc. Chapter President Patty LaRocca reported on our Adopt-a-Platoon, 642nd En CO group from Ft. Drum, and displayed photos received from the platoon. There were 45 Midwest family in attendance. Planners for the 2007 Midwest Reunion, Desc. Sharon Green and her dad **Jake Pollack** (85-HQ-2) reported on the final reunion plans for June 11-14 in Springfield, IL. Highlights of the reunion will be visits to the Abraham Lincoln Museum, Lincoln's home, tomb and war memorial, and to Salem, where he lived in earlier years.

10th COLD WAR VETERANS

The Association seeks to expand its membership to include veterans who served in the 10th Infantry Division during the Cold War (1948-58). This will enable them to meet with their Cold War comrades, with WWII veterans of the 10th Mountain Division, and with members of the modern 10th Mountain Division (Lt). Please contact: National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Attn: John Duffy, P.O. Box 750888, Forest Hills, NY 11375-0888; e-mail: j.j.Duffy@worldnet.att.net. Send articles, photographs and notices to the Editor for publication in the *Blizzard*.

NORTHWEST

Sarah Wickenhagen

Our own **Ed Flabetich** (86-A) was recently featured in the spring edition of *The University of Portland Magazine*. Ed's wife Connie was also recognized in the article as the first woman enrolled when the University went coed. Ed is one of a group of men who have connections to the University who meet each month to talk about the school and what used to be the old section of Portland in their boyhood.

Our chapter recently sent two more large boxes containing candy, soap, and reading materials to our Adopted platoon, serving in Afghanistan.

Quarterly Pick and Plant Party. On

February 3, the day started out wet and cold, but 29 stalwarts were undaunted. The gang filled 25 litterbags with discarded McDonald's cups, beer cans, and nuts and bolts from passing trucks and cars. The second job was planting the "Giant Sequoia" for Betty Wieprecht, wife of **Harvey** (86-F). Betty died in December.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has awarded our participation in the Clean-Highway Program with a Certificate of Appreciation award. Thanks again to our participants. **Jim Bray** (87-K), Pick and Plant Coordinator.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Bruce Campbell (86-I, 86-M), editor
with notes from Cyndi True (Desc.)*

We had a great turnout of veterans, descendants, and guests for our annual Riva Ridge/Belvedere Day on February 24th. Our thanks to **Warren Asa** (86-G) for an inspirational invocation preceding our lunch at the Holiday Inn. Two of our regulars were missed — **Erich Wittig** (86-B) was suffering from too much Hawaii, although Janet was present assisting with registration, and **Eric Cromie** (85-C) was hospitalized after a bad fall. Howard also mentioned the recent passing of associate Milan Kutin.

Acknowledgement and thanks were given to descendants Diane, Milt, and Jason Fisher for their design and publication of our new "Rucksack" and also to Kathy Loewy (spouse 86-B) for acting as our Secretary and Treasurer (in Erich's absence).

The By-Laws were discussed, with a proposed conclusion by the majority that would allow descendants and 10th Light members to hold office and vote. Associates and Friends of the 10th could join the Chapter, but would be unable to vote or hold office. The matter would probably be resolved at the National Reunion in Denver.

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K), President of Descendants, Inc., spoke about the Descendant Action Plan that is focussed on preserving the Legacy of the 10th Mountain Division. Before closing the meeting I called on Kathy Loewy to announce a surprise gift to our chapter — a wonderful painting created by our former member, **Don Forker** (86-B), which Kathy had won at a luncheon raffle years ago. The painting is of Camp Hale, Winter '43 (without the smoke!). This painting will be donated to the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center in the name of the Southern California Chapter.

Following the meeting, copies of the "Songs of the 10th Mountain Division," originally generated at the 30th Anniversary reunion in 1972, were handed out. For our entertainment, **Howard Harvey** (87-HQ) presented two videos. The first was the spot from NBC during the Winter Olympics highlighting the 10th Mountain Division with commentary from several veterans including **Howard Koch** (86-C). The second video was an amusing John Jay vintage ski film complete with John Jay's trademark witty narration.



Southern California Belvedere Day luncheon. Left to right: Warren Asa, Julius Wenger, Keith McKinney, Jim Fetzer, Howard Harvey, Bob Greider, Bruce Campbell, Cruz Rios, Robert Meyerhof.

LIGHTER MOMENTS ON KISKA

Fred Cowan (87-G)

Very few accounts of the lighter moments of the "Kiska Campaign" have appeared in the *Blizzard*. There were such moments. Perhaps some who were there can pass on their stories to those of the 10th who missed out on that trip. My stay on the island was short; after just a few weeks I was transferred out of 87-G and sent back on a slow boat to join the Mountain Training Group forming at Camp Hale.

As most will remember, the 87th found no Japs on Kiska. The rest of the Task Force, unneeded there, sailed back to the States, taking most of the grocery provisions with them. We were left with our K Rations but not much else. However, the little pools, scattered along streams that flowed down into the ocean, contained a goodly quantity of salmon. Salmon are good to eat, but first one has to catch them. Several methods were employed in the fishing that took place. If a salmon was close to the surface, the impact of a bullet or two on the water sometimes stunned the fish for a few moments. A Bowie knife tied to a stick or pole — if you could find one as there are no trees or large bushes on Kiska — made a spear. But a spear of this sort had no barbs to help retrieve the fish if your aim was good. A concussion grenade tossed into the water near the fish often put a good supply of salmon on the menu.

There was quite a bit of wildlife around that helped keep things interesting between the frequent violent wind gusts, the "willa-waws". The blue foxes that had been brought to Kiska and raised for fur by the Aleuts or Russians earlier were sometimes very tame and would often come up close, looking for a treat. The ravens were also fun to watch as they played King-of-the Mountain on the tele-

phone poles that had been set up. The ravens also played at bombing others, carrying rocks or seashells up into the air to drop on others on the ground.

I'll bet you didn't know that for a brief time there was a wind-powered electric generator operating on Kiska. It was located at an outpost near the northwesterly corner of the island. Someone had driven one of the weasels over some sort of small mine. The explosion had ruined the tracks and about everything else. Somehow, the driver had escaped without serious injury, but the machine appeared to have been abandoned. With little else to amuse ourselves, we looked over the ruins and discovered that the generator seemed to be intact as was one of the headlights. There was also a small kit of tools inside. We gathered up a stout wooden post, some boards, and other odds and ends and mostly using our Bowie knives, fashioned it all into a small windmill. We removed the generator, the headlight, the fan belt, some pulleys, and a quantity of wire from the weasel. The generator was mounted where it could be turned by the fan belt from the windmill. The salvaged wires led to the headlight, now located within our shelter.

All we needed now was a breeze. What we got was one of those famous Aleutian willa-waws, a gust of wind of perhaps seventy or eighty miles per hour. Our light came on. It shone brightly for a couple of minutes, then a bright flash was followed by darkness. We had not salvaged the voltage regulator, which might have handled the current developed by that gust of wind. The trip back to Seattle began the next day with the bunch that was to be the MTG, and I never found out if anyone else had wind-powered lights on Kiska.

KISKA, 50 YEARS LATER

As reported in the Syracuse, NY Post Standard, August, 1993.

On August 13, 1993, ten 10th veterans and 2 Japanese veterans landed on the beach that Allied troops had stormed 50 years earlier. They ranged in age from 70 to 80 years and carried cameras rather than rifles. This time,

former enemies came to share experiences and honor their dead. They reclaimed their old foxholes, examined rusty shore guns and a mini-submarine, skirted around stacks of live, unstable ammunition, and held a joint memorial ceremony to honor the dead on both sides.



Kiska comrades. L. to R. Back row: Karl Stingl, Karl Kasukabe, Jim Belcher, Eugene Winters, John McLellan, Art Delaney, Tom Stewart, Sherman Smith. Kneeling in front, l to r: Alan Orlor, George Earle, Dick Powers. Not pictured, Toyotaro Sugano.



XXI IFMS CONGRESS REPORT



By John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

Eighty Delegates from 9 nations gathered in Thun, Switzerland on September 19 for the four-day Congress hosted by the Switzerland International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) organization. The delegation from the United States consisted of Sally and Newc Eldredge (85-M), Bert Anger (86-A) and Irene and myself. I am pleased that each delegation has only one vote as we were outnumbered by the Spanish delegation numbering 20 delegates. We presented and discussed the papers that each delegation submitted on the topic "Lessons Learned from Experiences in Fighting Battles in Mountainous Regions." The Congress elected a new Secretary General from Spain, Brig. General Jaime Coll Benejam, succeeding Switzerland's Hans Peter Walker who served two three-year terms. Next year's Congress will take place in September and will be hosted by the Polish delegation.

Upon arrival, the delegates met for three hours of discussions in the four approved languages: German, French, Spanish and English. I was able to get the gist of the translations. The group acknowledged the United States hosting of last year's XX Congress in Stowe VT with a round of applause. The next day

started with a tutorial and slide presentation on how the Swiss were prepared to defend their four borders from invasion during WWII. Following this lecture we toured an area in the nearby mountains where the country had set up anti-tank defenses. Our guide pointed out various cement casings remaining in the woods. The afternoon program was more tours and lectures on the region.

The following morning we visited a Swiss Army camp for a very interesting demonstration of a rescue exercise following a simulated helicopter crash in mountainous terrain. Once the site was located, the medical evacuation team demonstrated their ground and air efforts to care for the injured personnel. Joining us was the U.S. Military Attaché, US Army Col. Dorothea Erickson, stationed in Bern Switzerland. She was given a 10-minute briefing about the 10th Mountain Division during WWII. Our group lunched at the Swiss Army barracks.

The final day of the Congress consisted of more meetings, speeches, closing ceremonies and a final dinner. Our Swiss hosts were marvelous and I appreciated the assistance they afforded the visitors from the USA.

Sempre Avanti.



The Spanish Delegation to the XXI IFMS Congress.



A tour of Switzerland's World War II mountain defense line, showing the concrete triangular barriers erected on the four borders of Switzerland to avoid motorized armor invasions during the European conflict.



Opening ceremony of XXI Congress of the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) at Gwatt, Switzerland. Delegates of the eight member nations displayed their flags as a band played each country's national anthem.



Memorial Service at the WWI and WWII cemetery in Thun, Switzerland, the country's oldest church yard. Attendees observed the formal wreath laying from the church's front entrance. Seated L to R are members of the U.S. delegation: Newc and Sally Eldredge and Irene Duffy.



Succession ceremony. Switzerland Gen. Christian Josi presents the IFMS plaque to the newly-elected Secretary General of the IFMS, Brig. General Jaime Coll Benejam of Spain. Retiring Secretary General Dr. Hans-Peter Walker of Switzerland (far right) looks on.



Farewell Banquet and exchange of gifts ceremony. Gen. Christian Josi presents a member of each country's delegation with a Swiss Lantern on behalf of the host country. At far left is U.S. delegate John Duffy.



MORE ON THE "PIN"

Ed. note. In the Blizzard 2006 No. 1, a Mail Call item from William Kohn (86-F) asked for identification of this pin. There were responses from Max Womack, Rod Vitty and Mike Myers in recent Blizzards. Below is another letter about the pin.

Concerning the pin. I believe it would have been purchased from a store on the Company grounds in Germany, not the PX. This type of store was run and operated by local merchants, as a private concession, with no connection to the 10th. I have a tie clasp with the 10th on it. I also was issued a patch similar to the pin. The patch would have come from the 10th. Best of luck.

Armand Arsenault, 127 Avenue Ambassador,
Pointe-Claire (Quebec) H9R 1S7



"SOLDIERS ON SKIS" EXHIBIT

Following are some notes from visitors to the Colorado Historical Society's Soldiers on Skis Exhibit.

I was in the 10th Mountain Division (Light) from 1994 to 1996. I would just like to say thank you to the 10th Mountain Division WWII veterans for all that they did. I am *very proud* to have followed in their footsteps. "Climb to Glory."
SPC Gregory Long.

Thank you for giving us the freedom in WWII. Grazie. P.S. My grandmother used to iron the shirts for the U.S. Army, in Italy. My mom was cured from an infection by a U.S. doctor. **Maria Giulio, Venice, Italy.**

As a Colorado Mountain pilot, been flying over Camp Hale for over 33 years. The low route between Leadville and Eagle. Every time passing over Camp Hale I think about the 10th Mountain Division, what they did for this country during WWII. Our many thanks to these men in winning the war to keep us free.
Unsigned

In 2001, our family and 3 other veterans, engineers who built the tramway, went to Italy and placed a bronze commemorative plaque on the tramway's anchor rock. Thank you for including a photo of this engineering feat in the exhibit.
Brenda Bailey Little.

My son is a member of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), stationed at Ft. Carson. He recently completed cold weather training. He was able to meet members of the original 10th at a respite in Breckenridge. He is greatly impressed by the toughness and resilience of those troopers, especially after having weathered multiple nights with "modern" equipment. He could only imagine what it was like for those rugged men in the 1940s. He is proud to be following the 10th's tradition.
Unsigned.

IT'S BOB MEYERHOF!

Re: Blizzard 2007 (1), page 14. The man receiving his commemorative cap from Mayor Polmonari in Lizzano during the Sempre Italia Tour is actually Bob Meyerhof (86-MED-I).



U.S.S. WEST POINT

Re: Photo of the U.S.S. West Point in the Descendant Blizzard, 2007 No. 1, page 3. Good to see a picture of the "Old Lady." I was First Sergeant of 85-F and sailed overseas on the West Point. 85-F and 87-F drew MP duty on the trip. We were on the first deck above water level, about 8 to a room. I got very seasick, as it was a very rough trip, so I would put on an MP Band and I'd be able to go anywhere. The sun felt good, as the whole trip was a complete blackout.

There were so many on the ship that we got only two meals a day. The kitchen never closed. Our biggest problem was keeping the G.I.s and nurses apart!

William Ballek (85-F)

LIKE BEING THERE AGAIN

Hal (Harry) Willits (86-F)

The Sempre Italia tour pictures in the special edition of the *Blizzard* brought back many memories. I fortunately traveled (fought) from our first line assignment (86-F) in January 1945, until pushing through the last tunnel to the north end of Lake Garda and the end of the war in Europe. On the way, F. Co. was assigned the last German outpost on Riva Ridge. A group of us motored to the top of the Ridge during the 1988 tour.

I remember the Club Trianon ballroom in Montecatini on R & R. The most fun was watching the newcomers drop to the floor from the popping of champagne corks.

We crossed the Po on a DUKW and moved into Verona on a tank to secure a bridge. The Germans destroyed it before

we arrived. At the south end of Lake Garda approaching tunnel No.1 we were pinned down by a machine gun firing from the ridge above the tunnel. After the area was secured we were transported up the lake by DUKWS to the last tunnel where we waited until our planes forced the Germans back into the hills north of Lake Garda. When the war ended, 86-F was trucked to Udine. A group of us were sent to Glocknerhaus in Austria to lay out ice climbing courses. I made several climbs, but was called back to Udine to participate in a musical variety show to entertain the troops passing through. This was also cut short. Soon we were ordered back to the states. I was passing through Denver on a train when the war ended.

LETTERS FROM ITALY

To Irene and John Duffy

I just received your special edition of the SEMPRE ITALIA TOUR. What a magnificent product, and what a treasure of memories for you all. I will put it into the TAA archive section at the office. I am delighted to have been able to meet you and hope that we'll do it all once again on the next time around for your trip.

Fondly,

Lynn Wiechmann

Tuscany-American Association (TAA), Florence, Italy

Excerpts from a Letter to Bryan Pullen and John Duffy

We are Federica and Ennio Cavaletti. We had the lucky chance to run into your group last June in Gargnano. When we met you we had the chance to talk about your tour, Italian lakes and Italian beauties in general, and WWII. Everything was very interesting, and for us, unusual. We remember with joy those nice moments and happened to recall them just a couple of weeks ago. So you can imagine how amazed we were when yesterday we received your wonderful publication on the tour! We looked at the pictures trying to figure out the persons we talked with, then we read some lines to better understand how the tour was organized and which of the mentioned places were known by us. We thank you very much for your gift and really feel and appreciate your spirit and sense of friendships, also mentioned in the cover article, and nice words on Italy scattered in many pages. We really do hope you will have further occasions — and not only the occasion of your already-planned 2009 tour — to visit Italy.

Thanks a lot again. Cheers.

Ennio e Federica, Monza, Italy

To John J. Duffy

Thank you very much for your kind letter of January 23rd, and the enclosed special edition of the *Blizzard*. I was very pleased that you remembered me. I read the report with large interest and admiration for the great success of your Italia tour. I was very astonished about the great number of descendant participants. This is a proof that the famous 10th Mountain Division will survive. Regarding my situation, I live since four and one half years together with my wife in a home for senior people in the vicinity of Salzburg. I am 92, my wife 90.

Cordially,

Werner Daumiller, Salzburg, Germany

Ed. note: German General Werner Daumiller is a founding member of the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS).

To John Duffy

I have received your letter of December 18, 2006. It is a pleasure to hear from you and the 10th Mountain Division. I thank you very much for the 2007 Tenth calendar, and I wish you and your wife and all the members of the Association all the best of the current year. Looking forward to meeting you and all the friends again in 2009.

Sergio Polmonari

Mayor, Lizzano in Belvedere, Italy



ROY KEVIN ANDREWS

I am writing a book about **PFC Roy Kevin Andrews** (ASN 32807003), born in 1924 in China. I would be interested in hearing from any veterans who knew him and details of the action at Abetaia on February 28, 1945.

He was inducted on February 16, 1943 at the New York City Army induction center. He served with 86-C, 10 Recon, 86-G, 87-K, and 87-HQ. He was awarded the Bronze Star for participation in combat at Abetaia on February 28, 1945. After the war Kevin went to Harvard, then to Greece during the Civil War there, as a historian. He wrote *Castles of Morea*, a beautiful book on Byzantine castles in the Peloponnese. Later he wrote perhaps the best travel book ever, *The Flight of Ikaros*. This covers his walks in the mountains among the people in war-torn Greece. He often said that he had learned in Italy "never to gain unnecessary height." Kevin died in 1989.

His mother was Yvette Borup, sister of George Borup, the Arctic explorer. His father is a mystery but could have been Roy Chapman Andrews, also an explorer.

Roger Jinkinson, 55 Warwick Road, London, UK N112SD
From USA Phone: 00442083500168
Email: rjinkin@mac.com

WALTER W. (BROWNIE) BROWN

PFC. Walter W. Brown ("Brownie"), (87-HQ-2), a ski jumper from Michigan, now 90 years old, served with the 10th Mountain Division from May 1942 to November 1945 at Fort Lewis, Camp Hale and Camp Wolters and with F Co. for a short time at Camp Hale. He served in Kiska and Italy. He drove ammunition to the front lines to H Co. while in the ETO. He speaks of buddies Frank Krall, "Red" Williams, Tommie Thompson, Sgt. Sweet, Arthur Bliss, to name a few. I have pictures of "BOB", "LUKE," "LARSONS" and a guy called "Willie" Wilson (from Oklahoma), but not much information. I'd love to hear from anyone with any information about my father or these other men. Thank you.



A proud daughter, **Susan Brown Johnson**, 1700 Cobblestone Lane, Oxford, Michigan 48371 • Email: Litlisisrides@aol.com

PER STOEN

I write this is on behalf of my friend **Tiny McWade** (87-HQ-3). Tiny served with Per Stoen at Ft. Lewis, but lost contact with him. Per is Norwegian and lived in Brooklyn, NY. He was married, and Tiny believes he had one son. Per (at right) was an excellent mountaineer. Anyone who knew Per, please contact Tiny or me.

Terry Ploot, 118 E. 8th Street, Leadville, CO 80461
Tiny McWade, 79 Schoolhouse Road, Groton, MA 01450 • Phone: 978-448-5779



Tiny and Per



Allen, Robert E. (85-MED), December 22, 2006, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Jeanne, a son, and a daughter.

Becker, Bernard L. (Barney), (86-HQ, 86-G, 90-HQ, 90-K), May 5, 2007, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Marge, 3 sons, a sister, and 1 grandchild. He was an accountant for Specialty Woodworking Co, and a ski instructor at Lewis and Clark College.

Berg, Russell W. (Spike) (87-L, 87-G, 86-C, 90-L, 86-A), February 28, 2007, Wausau, WI. He is survived by his wife Katie, a son, a grandson, 2 sisters, and his nieces and nephews.

Bockelmann, Martin (126-A), February 1, 2007, Addison, IL. He is survived by his wife Luella, a son, 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He was with Elmhurst Chicago Stone Co. until his retirement. He attended all National reunions beginning in 1977, and 3 return-to-Italy trips. He was an active VFW member at Post 2048, Elmhurst, IL.

Cowan, Caspar F. (87-G, E). December 23, 2006, Seattle, WA. He is survived by 2 daughters, a son, a brother, a sister, and six grandchildren. An expert in Maine real estate law, he authored *Maine Real Estate Law and Practice*, which became the standard text for Maine Real Estate Practitioners.

Curtis, Thomas A. (87-A), February 17, 2007, Orinda, CA. Survived by his wife Leota (Sis), 3 sons, a daughter, a sister, and 10 grandchildren. After a distinguished career in dentistry, he retired in 1991 as a full professor at UCSF Dental School.

Devine, William D. (Associate), March 27, 2007, Louisville, KY. He is survived by his wife Mary, a daughter and two grandchildren. He and his brother **Matthew** (85-E) were active members of the Midwest Chapter. He was a retired captain of the Louisville Fire Department.

Farley, Glenn R. (87-K, 90-K, 86-F), April 11, 2007, West Linn, OR. He is survived by 2 sons and 4 grandchildren. Glenn was a former president of the Northwest Chapter of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division.

Fox, Grover H. (86-I, 86-K, 86-HQ-3, 86-SVC), March 9, 2007, San Marcos, CA. He is survived by his wife Doris, a son, and 3 daughters. He worked in the printing industry for R. R. Donnelley & Sons, Chicago.

Graham, Roy D. (86-HQ, 86-HQ-1, 86-L, 10-HQ, 86-M, 86-G, 86-E), February 15, 2007, Ft. Bragg, CA. He is survived by his wife Faith.

Halverson, Gerald O. (87-F, 87-HQ-2), Lakewood, CA. He is survived by his wife Faith and a daughter. He was a cabinet maker.

Hanzl, Emerick J. (85-L), Clifton, NJ. He was a faithful and supportive member of the New York Chapter and an avid collector of Association pins.

Irwin, Robert (Bob) (85-C), May 16, 2007, Rio Verde, AZ. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Jack, Robert B. (86-B, 86-A), May 15, 2007, Iowa City, IA. He is survived by his wife Clara, 2 sons, a daughter, 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and a brother. He owned and operated Jack Insurance Agency. With 9 fellow veterans, he helped complete a book titled, *A Full Measure*, by Norman Rudi, which described his experiences during WWII.

Kehr, George W. (602-C, 126-HQ), Hillsdale, NJ. He is survived by his wife Phyllis.

Lauer, Paul E. (Nick) (605-A), August 31, 2006, Hamilton, OH. He is survived by 3 daughters, 2 sons, 12 grandchildren, 3 sister, 2 brothers and his nieces and nephews. He was a union bricklayer for over 40 years and later owned his own company.

McKinstry, Neal P. (10-AT-A, 10-AT-HQ, 727-A), April 30, 2007, Grand Junction, CO. He is survived by his sister, a son, two grandchildren and a great-grandson. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service in a number of Colorado locations. Upon retirement, he and his wife raised Arabian horses.

Merritt, Theodore C. (87-HQ-3, 87-K, 86-B, 86-E, 90-HQ-3), March 15, 2007, Sarasota, FL. He is survived by 3 sons, a daughter, a brother, a sister, 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He established a brick distributorship in Flemington, NJ, and contributed important innovations to the brick industry.

Nagle, Kenneth T. (85-M), March 26, 2007, Clarksville, VA. He is survived by his wife Rita, a son, a niece, and a nephew. He was Treasurer, James Talcott, New York, NY; CEO U.S. Industries, New York, NY; Associate, South Bend, IN; Albuquerque Federal Bank, NM; and Concord Group, Norwalk, CT.

Reynolds, Robert S. (87-HQ, 87-L), March 1, 2006, Hendersonville, NC. He is survived by his wife Rita.

Schenck, Aaron J. (86-B), April 22, 2007, Missoula, MT. He is survived by 4 sons, a daughter, a brother, two sisters, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. He taught high school for 29 years in Missoula. He is a former president of the Big Sky chapter of the National Association, and created and edited the newsletter "Mini-Blizzard."

Snow, Bruce R. (10-HQ, MTC-HQ, 10-QM, 87-F), May 1, 2007, Spokane, WA. He is survived by a sister, 6 daughters, 10 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. He was a Survival Training Specialist and was instrumental in developing curriculum and training materials for the USAF's Survival School.

Solari, Joseph James (604-MED, 604-VET), December 1, 2006, San Francisco, CA. He is survived by his friend Georgina Wearing, a brother, a sister, 4 nieces, a nephew, 10 grand nephews and 4 grand nieces.

Thorn, Walter C. (85-K, MTG, 87-C), April 2, 2007, Gilford, VT. He is survived by his wife Katherine, 2 sons and 1 granddaughter.

Weber, Frederick J. (86-L), May 11, 2007, Helena, MT. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, a daughter, 2 sons, and 6 grandchildren. He practiced law in Havre for 31 years, and in 1980 he was elected to the Montana Supreme Court where he served for 15 years.

Wilson, Richard M. (85-M, 85-HQ-3, 86-H, 86-K, 86-A), April 12, 2007, Eastman, NH. He is survived by a daughter, a sister, and his nieces and nephews. He worked in the ski and publishing industries, and public relations. He was assistant national adjutant-public relations for the Disabled American Veterans organization from 1972 to 1986. He held officer positions in the Rocky Mountain, Midwest, and New England chapters of the National Association, and had been an editor of the *Blizzard*.

Zimmerman, Harold C. (Zim) (86-G), March 27, 2007, Lewisburg, PA. He is survived by his wife Joanne, a daughter, a son, and a brother. He served as senior merchandise manager at Allied Stores Corp., President of the Allied Builders Club, and retired in 1985 as General Sales Manager of Butter-Krust Baking Co. in Sudbury.

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WINTER SPORTS CLINIC FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

Thomas E. Hames (Desc. 85-K)

When spring invades the mountains of Colorado, there is no better time to invite a large group of disabled veterans to Snowmass to participate in the Winter Sports Clinic that took place April 1-6, 2007. This is the largest winter sports clinic of its kind in the United States for veterans with significant disabilities. This year over 440 veterans from many different conflicts participated in a myriad of sporting activities. This unique clinic is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA Rocky Mountain Network, directed by Sandy Trombetta. The clinic allows veterans with physical or mental disabilities the opportunity to challenge themselves to do their best in mountain conditions.

The 10th Mountain Division Foundation, Inc. participated in the past by sponsoring this event. In 2007, at the insistence of one of the event founders, **Richard Wilson** (85-M), the Foundation renewed our participation by sponsoring soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division (Light) who have significant disabilities to participate in the Winter Sports Clinic. The Clinic tests and challenges the veterans to overcome their disabilities in winter sports, in a supportive environment. It is the largest therapeutic sporting clinic of its kind in the United States, perhaps in the world.

I was fortunate to meet three of the four 10th light veterans sponsored by the Foundation. Each had his own unique story about combat, his injuries and his long road back. What impressed me is that each was not so far removed from the combat injuries. The Veterans Department is apparently encouraging these

wounded warriors to become as active as possible, as early as possible, in this type of program. The commitment and enthusiasm of these soldiers was remarkable. After time spent in Veterans hospitals around the country, these veterans are probably the most appreciative guests in the Snowmass area all season. What better way to readjust their mind set, than a trip to the Mountains of Colorado to engage in a variety of sporting events.

I met veterans from all over the country including those from Ft. Drum. Some traveled independently, some with hosts or supporters (spouses or friends). All were committed to get the most out of the various sporting events and received an incredible boost from the clinic and all associated activities.

Winter sports available to the wounded veterans ranged from skiing, hockey, rock climbing, fencing, and scuba diving to the more pedestrian activities of going to Glenwood Springs Hot Springs or Aspen for a day of relaxation or shopping. But make no mistake, for the sporting events it was a furious battle among the individuals to perform at their best, to overcome the odds. I was touched by the resilience and character of each participant. Disabled veterans could pick and choose their activities after being divided into teams. Of note were several of the volunteer instructors in the various sports who paid their own way to this clinic from all parts of the country.

Based upon the individuals I met and their participation in this program, it is certainly worthy of the Foundation's future support and funding on a continuing basis.

IMPORTANT DATE!
**NATIONAL REUNION
IN DENVER**
AUGUST 2-5, 2007