**JOHN COMPTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

Thomas E. Hames (Desc. 85-K)
John Imbrie (85-C)

On May 29, 2006 following the 48th Annual Memorial Day ceremony at Tennessee Pass, the John Compton Memorial Bridge was dedicated at the Eagle River at Camp Hale.

The bridge honors John P. Compton, a machine gunner in 86-G who was killed in action in Italy on March 3, 1945. This was the first day of the offensive that jumped off from the northern end of the Mt. Belvedere ridge and made for the high ground near the village of Iola. Early in the attack, close by the farmhouse Casa Romito, Pfc. Compton was killed by enemy rifle fire. After the war, finding that the church in Iola had been badly damaged, the Compton family rebuilt the church in honor of John.

In attendance for the Bridge dedication were a number of supporters of the project. These included U.S. Forest Service employees Bill Kite, Cary Pence and Justin Henderson, and others who were instrumental in the procurement and planning of the Bailey bridge over the Eagle River. Also present were 10th Mountain Division Hut Association representatives, including executive director Ben Dodge and Ted and Carol Billings. WWII 10th Mountain Division veterans present were Art Delaney (87-L) and Norm Ehrgott (85-K), among others.

The Foundation served as a conduit for funding by the Compton Family Foundation and the Baker Family Foundation. The Compton Foundation gave $35,000 to the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, Inc. to honor John Compton and fund this bridge. The Baker Foundation matched that amount and asked that the funds be used to honor all men who served with the 10th Mountain Division. Our thanks to these two fine organizations for funding this last project and memorial.

Bill Ryan of the 10th Mountain Division Living History and Display Group brought his World War II jeep, which was the first official vehicle to cross the bridge. Besides Bill, those in the jeep were Bill Kite, U.S. Forest Service, Col. Frank Romano (86-K) and Lauren Hames, granddaughter of Eugene Hames (85-K). Bill Kite and Lauren Hames cut the ribbon, officially opening the bridge.

**EARL CLARK** (87-HQ-1), Howard Koch (86-C), Hugh Evans (85-A,C) and other members of the Foundation Board of Directors who were involved in organizing this project were absent due to the National Association-sponsored trip to Italy.

The photograph below shows the World War II Jeep as the first official vehicle to cross the bridge. The bridge has cement abutments and can withstand the weight of an armored vehicle, including a tank. Interpretative signs tell about John Compton and the two Foundations that provided the funding for this project.

Access is now afforded from the west to the east of the Eagle River at the main entrance of the Camp Hale National Historic site.

This project is representative of the good works the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation Inc. has undertaken. Also of note is the substantial contribution the Foundation made in 2005 and 2006 to the Abbie Kealy video documentary of the 10th Mountain Division, based upon McKay Jenkins’ book “The Last Ridge.”

**COMING TO THE REUNION BY TRAIN, CAR, BUS, PLANE, OR MULE, BUT BE THERE!**

The 2007 National Association Roster is currently being prepared for distribution. This is a valuable and important reference document for our membership. In the past few months we have made appeals to all members to submit updated information in order that we meet our deadlines and include accurate information for as many of our members as possible. The 2007 Roster will be the twelfth in a series of national membership lists—our National Association's first roster was published in 1955 by the 10th Mountain Division Alumni Association—the organization which in 1971 evolved into our National Association. I have cherished my copy of that first Directory (as it was called), which contains the names, addresses and units of 2,500 members—including the then-recently retired Lt. Gen. George P. Hays, who lived in New Rochelle, NY. The 10th Mountain Division National Association's first roster was published in 1973, two years after the Association was formed. That roster included 3,581 names and addresses. Later rosters were published every three or four years. The roster grew to a maximum of 7,000 names in 1987, then declined to 4,000 in 2004.

A study of these rosters reveals that a total of 7,900 WWII veterans of the 10th joined our Association, or one of its predecessor organizations. Considering that 31,000 soldiers served in our Division during WWII, and 999 were killed in action, this means that 26% of our veterans who survived the war joined the Association—a truly remarkable record. Over the years, the roster's format evolved in various ways, with fewer names, but more photos and articles. Since 1980, all rosters have included an article on the history of the Association. In 1998 John Engle (87-L) greatly expanded this article, creating a fascinating account of how our organization evolved starting with plans made on the slopes of Mt. Belvedere. In 1994 the roster included for the first time the names and units of men on our World War II Roll of Honor—our fallen comrades. Since 2000, the roster has included a Roll of Honor for the 10th Mountain Division (Light). Starting in 1998, rosters have included a list of the principal 10th Mountain Division monuments and memorials located in the U.S. and overseas. In that same year, the roster included descendants who were members of the Association. These descendants eventually formed their own organization, with a separate listing in the 2004 roster. The 2007 Roster will cover both Association members and Descendants, and include both alphabetical and geographic listings.

As the 2007 National Roster goes to press, I want to acknowledge Barbara and John Imbrie (85-C) who are working hard to make the roster an informative and accurate reference document, and John Engle, who once again is working to bring the Association's history and a list of memorials up to date. How fortunate we are for their enthusiasm and diligence!

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS

Nominating Committee chairman Harvey Wieprecht (86-F) was presented with the following slate of candidates for officers and appointed positions of the 10th Mountain Division Association for the term beginning November 1, 2007 and ending October 31, 2010. The candidates will have an opportunity to present their platforms and credentials in the Blizzard 2007, No. 2.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

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President Mike Plummer 10th Mt. Div. (Lt.) Watertown, NY
Vice President Steve Coffey Descendant Reston, VA
Secretary Gil Pearsall 10th Mt. Div. (Lt.) Cartagney, NY
Treasurer Dan Murphy Descendant Bedford, NH

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Quartermaster Frank Thornton Descendant Bala Cynwyd, PA
Blizzard Editor Felicity Hallanan Friend of the 10th Sandy Creek, NY
Membership Chair Ken Lopez 10th Mt. Div. (Lt.) Cartagney, NY
Scholarship Commission Chair Mike Miller 10th Mt. Div. (Lt.) Watertown, NY
Webmaster David Little Honorary Denver, CO

Fr. Drum Liaison Division Command Sgts. Major 10th Mt. Div. (Lt.) Ft. Drum, NY

BLIZZARD 2007 NUMBER 1

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, INC.

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The Board of Directors, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc., consists of the Chairman of the Board, National President, Senior Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, all Chapter Presidents, the Blizzard editor, the Executive Director, the Quartermaster, the President of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, and two members at large who may be

Treasurer, all Chapter Presidents, the Chairman of the Board, National President, Senior Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, all Chapter Presidents, the Blizzard editor, the Executive Director, the Quartermaster, the President of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, and two members at large who may be identified by the President. (Article IV, Section 2, National By-Laws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.).

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Fort Drum Liaison Pat Murr 20104 Ball Road Black River, NY 13612
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Utah
Sandy Eldredge 3939 Hale Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Washington, DC
Haswell Vass 3707 Red Grove Road Baltimore, MD 21220

New York, NY 10009
**EVENTS**

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**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER REPORT**

**RESOURCE CENTER HELPS VETERANSTOO.** Do you have trouble remembering specifically where your unit was on March 12, 1945? Have you forgotten when you joined a particular company, or the dates of your furlough at Camp Swift? Is an old marching song rolling around in your head that you just can’t quite put your finger on? Well, you are not alone. Recently, your 10th Mountain Division Resource Center handled these questions and many more just like them. Most of our Resource Center inquiries are from descendants seeking information about a family member. Responding to these types of queries provides me some of the most rewarding moments in my day. But we offer a lot more. A veteran contacted me to obtain the lyrics for a song he vaguely remembered. The song mentioned something about lutefisk and sill. We were able to send him copies of lyrics to many old marching songs. When a veteran was confused about what ribbons or medals were associated with the Kiska landings, we provided the information he needed. For another veteran, the opportunity to relive the drill of setting up a field artillery piece by perusing portions of an old Army Field Manual brought back a flood of memories. In responding to queries, we mainly depend on the company morning report. These reports are a daily record of events and include entries for individual soldiers that provide dates for promotions, furloughs, hospitalizations, details about wounds, transfers and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) classifications. We also use Payroll records to confirm enlistment, promotion and transfer dates. General and special orders, award citations, rosters, manuals and a host of other primary documents give us valuable details about events and procedures. Although I have recently been on a crusade soliciting donations of letters, diaries and photographs, I want to make it clear that the 10th Mountain Division Collection contains so much more. As the veteran queries related above point out, we need, and we can make use of almost any type of documentary material. The other day I received a 1944 Leadville-Pando bus schedule! So, don’t throw anything away. Let us evaluate it. And, the next time a grandchild prods you for details of your military service that have become somewhat clouded by time, call the Resource Center. We are here to help you.

Our first major historical collection TMD1 is now available online at the Denver Public Library website: http://www.denverlibrary.org/. Click on “Western History and Genealogy,” then “Manuscript Catalog,” then the link for “Electronic Access to Manuscript Finding Aids.” From here you can find the 10th Mountain Division Records, TMD1. This collection contains only a fraction of the records we have here at the Library. Using the information from the main collection as it all relates to the history of the 10th. Later, we will add a collection identified as TMD40, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division Records. This is where all of the reunions, memorials, meeting minutes and so forth will reside. TMD2 will include all of the National Archives copies that went into creating the database.

I have identified approximately 1,000 individual collections. Each of these will eventually have a TMD number. For example, Hugh Evans’ papers are TMD4, Earl Clark’s are TMD8, John Imbrie’s are TMD37, John Duffy’s are TMD47. So far we have inventoried approximately 80 of the 1,000 I have identified, so it will be a few weeks before I get the other 920 inventoried (or maybe several years!). My thanks to all of you who reviewed and corrected the historical notes.

**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER REPORT**

**“THE LAST RIDGE” DOCUMENTARY PREMIERS SPRING 2007 Abbie Kealy (Desc. 86-L)**

This Just In... the 10th Mountain film “The Last Ridge” is ready for broadcast, and will premier nationally on public television, very likely around Memorial Day weekend.

When we last reported on the documentary, we were deep into editing the sixty minute public television program. What can we say, it takes time to sift through hundreds of hours of interviews, battlefield re-enactments, boxes of photographs and archival footage from Allied, German and Japanese forces. Who knew it would take longer to produce “The Last Ridge” than for the 10th to train and fight in Italy?

But we hope you’ll agree it was worth the wait when you see “The Last Ridge” this coming spring on public television stations nationwide. With the addition of newly recorded narration by National Public Radio’s Scott Simon, host of Saturday Edition, the final program also includes 3-D animated maps that provide a better understanding of battleground terrain and troop movement. More than a “birds eye view,” these animations combine footage shot by a NASA shuttle, with topographic elevation data to create a perspective any bird would envy. An “aerial of the battlefield,” the final program also includes comprehensive bonus features about the production, in-depth interviews with additional vets, and battle re-enactments not featured in the program. The website, http://www.lastridge.com, will provide additional details on how to order.

I cannot thank you enough for all your support, enthusiasm and interest in “The Last Ridge.”
It was said that the Army allowed seven weeks for acclimatization at Hale. Jim Chandler (85-G) and I arrived at Camp Hale the first week in August, 1943. We were as- signed a tent. That first week, we were issued our equipment — from canteens to rucksacks, sleeping bags and the M-1 Garand rifle. Calisthenics and close-order drill the next morn- ing marked the start of three month’s basic training. Each day, Denver-Rio Grande — Dirty, Rugged and Greasy — locomotives hauled freight cars through Pando. Coal smoke swirled over Camp Hale, creating the Pando Hack, the curse of the Camp.

At the end of August, we packed rucksacks. One person packed the new Mountain Tent — (pup tent with sown-in canvas floor), another person packed the tent poles and stakes. You entered the Mountain Tent through a tubular opening with difficulty, then pulled it shut, which left you snug and slightly claus- trophobic. With 90 — well, more like 60 — pounds of rucksack we marched to Gold Park for a four-week bivouac. We dug the longest latrine ever, cutting saplings to create “seats” that bowed ominously when loaded during the morning’s wake-up call. While on bivouac, the company worked up defensive and offensive positions, and sent out patrols at night. We listened to lectures on sage brush — foraging, recognition, use of the compass and reconnaissance. There were classes on map reading, expected that we would land on some mountainous South Pacific island. We were as- signed to 90-L and issued our equipment from the 538th Armored and the 647th Mountain and Winter Warfare School with a rock climbing school near Tennessee Pass in a snowstorm. 

After the bivouac, Co. L spent a week — from canteens to rucksacks, sleeping bags on evergreen boughs, and poles tied to our rucksacks. One person packed the new Mountain and Winter Warfare Shelter at Cooper Hill and the Mountain Tents miraculously disappeared. We would take a sip. At that altitude, the cowhide gave one a mild high. The Division spread out among the snowy peaks around Camp Hale. No fires were allowed. Cold weather, cold rations, the eternal snow chilled mind and body. However, the men assigned as runners at Battalion Headquarters — two from each company — had a good deal. Most nights, they stamped out a huge circle, rolled out sleeping bags on evergreen boughs, and lit a fire in the center of the circle. Some nights, someone would go on sick call and return with a bottle of cough medic- ine. Each would take a sip. At that altitude, the cowhide gave one a mild high. The Division spread out among the snowy peaks around Camp Hale. No fires were allowed. Cold weather, cold rations, the eternal snow chilled mind and body. However, the men assigned as runners at Battalion Headquarters — two from each company — had a good deal. Most nights, they stamped out a huge circle, rolled out sleeping bags on evergreen boughs, and lit a fire in the center of the circle. Some nights, someone would go on sick call and return with a bottle of cough medi- cine. Each would take a sip. At that altitude, the cowhide gave one a mild high. The Division spread out among the snowy peaks around Camp Hale. No fires were allowed. Cold weather, cold rations, the eternal snow chilled mind and body. However, the men assigned as runners at Battalion Headquarters — two from each company — had a good deal. Most nights, they stamped out a huge circle, rolled out sleeping bags on evergreen boughs, and lit a fire in the center of the circle. Some nights, someone would go on sick call and return with a bottle of cough medi- cine. Each would take a sip. At that altitude, the cowhide gave one a mild high. The Division spread out among the snowy peaks around Camp Hale. No fires were allowed. Cold weather, cold rations, the eternal snow chilled mind and body. However, the men assigned as runners at Battalion Headquarters — two from each company — had a good deal. Most nights, they stamped out a huge circle, rolled out sleeping bags on evergreen boughs, and lit a fire in the center of the circle. Some nights, someone would go on sick call and return with a bottle of cough medi- cine. Each would take a sip. At that altitude, the cowhide gave one a mild high.

We were welcomed — mountaineers thought — to Camp Swift to be reformed into a traditional infantry division. Before leaving Camp Hale for Swift in early summer, G Company marked time with basics and rock climbing. Before the snow melted, we skied Sugarloaf Mountain, making runs in four inches of powder, jumping off a cornice, just fool- ing around. At the end of the day, we returned to Camp Hale running down the road between the darkening spruce and fir forest, one behind another, occasionally checking one’s speed, silent except for the creak of the gear on our back. It was the last time G Company skied at Hale; the last time ever, for some.

In May 1943, as a 2nd Lieutenant, I was assigned to 87-H commanded by Dick Johnson. I was in charge of the 81mm mortar platoon at the platoon Sgt. At Kiska I had the dishonor of being the 1st man in the 10th to be fired at by a lead scout of a rifle platoon in the morning of the landing. In May 1945 after the Germans surren- dered in Italy, I ended up as a Captain commanding the 2nd Battalion because the men with enough points were being sent home for discharge.

We returned to the U.S. at Camp Carson and the 2nd Bn was deactivated with the rest of the 10th Division. I was still in the Army assigned to a newly- formed Mountain and Winter Warfare School with a rock climbing school near Carson and ski training at Cooper Hill. We trained the 38th Infantry, 2nd Divi- sion. I was in charge of the school troops — all experts. The 38th Infantry lived in tent shelters at Cooper Hill and the School Troops stayed at Hale in the only 2 buildings left. One was a medical ward building where officers stayed and the other was a recreation hall with rooms for the kitchen and enlisted men. I was the last Commanding Officer at Camp Hale, as it was closed down after that winter training.

My grandson, 1st Lt. Brian Boorque, is in Afghanistan. He commands the 81 mm. Mortar Platoon H Co., 2nd Battalion, 87th Mountain Infantry Regi- ment, 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Divi- sion. This is quite a coincidence, and as you can appreciate, I think of him of- ten as it seems he is following in my footsteps, though in a different part of the world.
HOW I GOT INTO THE SKI TROOPS

Ed note: Following are 4 more articles on “How I got into the Ski Troops.” What’s your story?

JACK GRUBB (87-M). Having been a skier and climber in my early teens, I got the required 3 recommendation letters and received the acceptance letter which clearly stated that after basic training at Camp Roberts I was to be sent to Camp Carson, Colorado. On enlistment day in Los Angeles, November 23, 1942, I met another future ski trooper Jack Launer. We were sent to Ft. McArthur where we pulled fatigue details for about a week. Because of my ROTC training in high school and junior college I was offered the opportunity “to become cadre at Ft. McArthur and spend the rest of the war there.” (Yeah, sure). After a week of the fatigue details, Launer and I were put on a train to Camp Carson; after a short time there, we were on a train to Hale, arriving there late at night. We were assigned to L Company. Since we hadn’t had basic (we weren’t the only ones) we were all taken to an empty warehouse, no heat, and we hadn’t been issued any of the winter uniforms. We were all given several days of close order drill and manual of arms and that constituted our Basic. After being in L Company for a week or two, we were both transferred to M Company in the Mortar Platoon.

We went to Kiska with the 87th, but on return to Hale a number of us, not including Launer, were sent back to Camp Carson as cadre for the 90th. That didn’t last long and we were sent to Fort Ord as replacements. I wound up in the South Pacific in the 25th Infantry Division and did Luzon and occupation in Japan.

RAYMOND GUNCHIN (10-AT-B). I was living in Joliet, IL. At age 19 I was inducted into the service in June 1943 and sent to Ft. Custer, Michigan. After going on active duty, I was shipped out to Camp Wallace, Texas, between Galveston and Houston. We trained as 40 mm anti-aircraft (AA) gunners, and after training we shipped out to Ft. Bliss, TX for training with half tracks. I was a turret gunner with 50 cal. machine guns. After more training I shipped out to Camp Carson, Colorado to train as a 57 mm anti-tank gunner.

At Camp Carson we used to see the mules of the 10th Mountain Division going through the camp, either coming or going to Camp Hale. Never did I think I would someday be a part of the 10th. From Ft. Carson, we were moved to the East coast and shipped out of Newport News, Virginia. We docked in Naples, Italy and were put in a replacement depot as an Anti-Tank Unit.

After the battles for Mt. Belvedere and Riva Ridge, the 10th had lost a lot of good men. So we were taken out of the tank battalion and assigned to the 10th Mountain Division. From that time on, I was an implant soldier in the 10th. One of the first things I did was to cross over Riva Ridge on the tram that had been erected. What a scene out in the middle of the valley. I will never forget it. We moved up through Italy, through the Po Valley, across the Po River and up to Lake Garda. I was in the Lake Garda area when the Germans surrendered on May 2, 1945.

The men of the 10th were the best bunch of men I was with during all my time in the service. I never had a pair of skis on until after I was discharged. Then I was back in Illinois with not many big hills and I still fell down. That’s why I claim to be an implant into the 10th Mountain Division. But it was great!

JAMES C. HARPEL (87-M). A few months after Pearl Harbor I was classified as 1-A for the draft. I had a strong interest in skiing and decided that the ski troops were for me. I sent an application with my three letters of recommendation to the National Ski Patrol. I received a letter saying that my application has been approved and that another notice would follow instructing me where to report for induction. Two or three weeks later another letter said that recruiting for the ski troops had been closed — no explanation. I assumed that they had as many people as they needed so I waited to accept whatever the draft would bring.

As of September 19, 1942 I was inducted at Ft. McArthur, California and assigned to the Medical Detachment of the Army Air Force at the Santa Ana, California Army Air Force Base, just 25 miles from my wife and home. After basic training I was told that I was being transferred to the 87th Mountain Infantry at Camp Hale, Colorado, but temporarily attached to an Engineer Battalion at Camp Carson in Colorado Springs. I was shocked but pleased that the military had acted on my original request. A GI met my train at Colorado Springs and took me to an Army camp. At a supply room they dumped out my barracks bags and issued all new clothing. The supply room was a scene steaming out of a back room and said, “Hold everything, this guy don’t belong here, he should be at Camp Carson.” They took away my new clothing, reloaded my barracks bags with what had been dumped, and took me to Camp Carson. I then realized they had seen my Air Force shoulder patch and taken me to Peterson Field (now the Air Force Academy).

We were held at Camp Carson until Camp Hale construction was completed and the construction workers were cleared out. About the 10th of December we boarded a train to Fort Ord, CA and spent a month in dirty and dirty train with ornate interior woodwork, clearly taken out of moth ball for duty — no doubt an upscale passenger train in its day. On arrival I was assigned to 87-L and shortly transferred to 87-M.

GEORGE H. ROSENFIELD (85-E). In 1942 I was 17 and a freshman in the Forestry College at Massachusetts State College. Most members of the ski team were forestry students, and they went en masse into the ski troops. I had to wait until after my 18th birthday. The first call in 1942 from the National Ski Patrol for volunteers was for skiers. The ski teams from all the colleges went. But there was a problem. Although they knew how to ski, they did not know how to survive in the cold and snow without hot food and warm beds. The second call was for Boy Scouts, lumberjacks, woodsmen, farmers, cowboys, etc. — people who knew how to survive. They could be taught how to ski, but staying alive was a different matter. I was a Boy Scout in Boston. We camped every month of the year, regardless of weather. We could survive. I got a letter from my scoutmaster, one from the Forestry Department head at MSC and one from my rabbi. In December 1943 I was drafted and reported for duty in 1944. I showed my letter of acceptance into the ski troops. I was sent to Ft. Benning, GA. I showed my letter again. I sat in the barracks for a week until I was taken to the train station in Columbus, GA, and put on the train to Pando, CO.

At the St. Louis, MO railroad station late that night, I got sick and ran to the nearest rest room. It was the women’s room. Someone squealed and an MP came in and threw me out. Early next morning the train left for the west. I had to change trains at Pueblo, CO. I had a high fever and the MPs drove me to the Army Air Base hospital where I was given some aspirins and sent back to the train. After 2 days travel, I arrived at Pando with high fever and was sent to the hospital for 2 weeks with acute bronchitis. After the hospital I was taken to my company.

During the next two weeks of light duty I was taken on a live ammo firing exercise. I had never fired anything more powerful than a 22 caliber rifle. The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Stone, came looking for the young man who had never shot a rifle before. He took me off to the side of a mountain and I learned to shoot an M1 rifle. He was amazed that I had not had basic training in the army. In late March, I drew my field equipment for the D-Series maneuvers. Camp Hale was in a valley surrounded by high mountain ridges and peaks. Smoke and soot from trains and the coal-fired furnaces in the barracks filled the valley. Everyone had the Pando hack. We looked forward to going into the mountains for some fresh clean air.

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

- Blazer patches for your Class As: $10.00 including postage
- 10th Mountain Division Neckties: $45.00 including postage

BOOK SALE: LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE

- 10th Mountain Division Battle Sites: Then and Now by John and Barbara Imbrie, 2006. $25 including postage.
- The 10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy, 1945 by John Imbrie and Thomas R. Brooks, 2002. $25 including postage.

Other sale items:
Collectors Item, copy of 1945 Blizzard, $8.00 with shipping.
Ask about the 10th Wall Posters sale!

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Email: postfank@verizon.net • Phone: 610-667-2911

FOR THE 10TH WEBSITE

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE www.10thmtndivassoc.org
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2006

Thomas Hames (Desc. 85-K) and David Little (Honorary)

The 48th annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 29th honored the 10th Mountain Division soldiers who never came home from World War II. Nearly 400 people were in attendance. The National and Division Colors were posted by two World War II veterans. Maj. David Whitworth showed the 10th Group by descendent Flint Whitlock, Whitworth showed the 10th Group color by two World War II veterans. Maj. David came home from World War II. Nearly Mountain Division soldiers who never ceremony on May 29th honored the 10th ceremony, Thomas Hames, Foundation President, recognized some of the veterans and guests, including a survivor of the Bataan march, a retired Marine whose son served with the 10th Mountain Division in Iraq and made the ultimate sacrifice, and several of our oldest 10th Mountain Division veterans. The Tenth Mountain Division Foundation extends appreciation to the Lake County High School band, directed by James Knapp, the Lake County Sheriff’s Office, St. Francis Hospital Emergency Services, Ski Cooper staff, the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association, the 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Bugler Dr. John Raahe, and The 10th Mountain Division Living History Group, organizer of the ceremony.

Twenty wreaths were placed at the monument, making a clear statement that the sacrifice by these soldiers will never be forgotten. Following the ceremony, Thomas Hames, Foundation President, recognized some of the veterans and guests, including a survivor of the Bataan march, a retired Marine whose son served with the 10th Mountain Division in Iraq and made the ultimate sacrifice, and several of our oldest 10th Mountain Division veterans. The Tenth Mountain Division Foundation extends appreciation to the Lake County High School band, directed by James Knapp, the Lake County Sheriff’s Office, St. Francis Hospital Emergency Services, Ski Cooper staff, the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association, the 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Bugler Dr. John Raahe, and The 10th Mountain Division Living History Group, organizer of the ceremony.

A number of New England Chapter members were on hand to help John Huber (center, seated) celebrate his 100th Birthday in mid-August. Among them were, l to r: Ed Raswyck, Dick Mansfield, Newc Eldredge and Dick Wilson.

JOHN HUBER, CENTENAIRIAN

Dick Wilson (85-M)

John Huber (86-C) was a tennis legend as both a competitor and teacher. Golden Gloves boxing champion, expert skier, friend to everyone he ever met and, above all, a proud WWII combat veteran of the 10th Mountain Division. That was the New England Chapter’s John Huber who died in late August at the age of 100 years. Only a few weeks before his death, he was feted at a birthday party attended by several of his 10th Mountain comrades. Tales abound about John’s unique abilities as a tennis instructor and competitor, and he stayed active in the sport until three or four years ago. Players half his age were put to shame as John kept them running from one side of the court to the other with his cagey lobs, slices and smashes. He was also a very patient instructor and groomed his students to perfect their talents on the court. His long-time career as a ranking competitor was reflected in the countless trophies he earned over the years. It was also reflected in his performances on the court at a time when most others his age had long since packed away their tennis gear. At age 85 he was ranked fifth nationally in that age group for singles by the U.S. Tennis Association, and at age 90 he was ranked second nationally in men’s doubles by the USTA. A few years ago he was installed in the U.S. Tennis Association’s New England Hall of Fame, Newport, RI.

John’s love of tennis was nearly equaled by his love of the mountains. For many years at the New England Chapter’s annual ski trips to Colorado, he served as grocery shopper and chef for a condo unit occupied by “skiing brothers.” John’s wide grin, sparkling eyes, great sense of humor and loyalty to his 10th Mountain Division comrades will certainly be long remembered by all who knew him. It is significant to note that John was 37 when he volunteered for the 10th, making him one of the oldest recruits in the division. He served throughout the Italian campaign with 86-C, earning the Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

COMBAT SKI PATROLS

At Field (85-I)

In the Blizzard 2006 No. 2, page 5, Henry Klingman’s (86-HQ-I) very interesting article concluded with the statement, “We were really glorified foot slogging infantry, not glamorous ‘Ski Troopers’, and I think it’s time we stopped perpetuating that image.” My response to that is: Glamorous, No! Ski Troopers, Yes! Between 2004 and 2006, four articles in national newspapers stated that the Ski Troopers of the 10th Mountain Division never skied in combat. Knowing the facts to be fallacious, I sent responses to each of the newspapers citing 18 book sources that confirmed that the Ski Troopers of the 10th Mountain Division did use skis in combat in Italy in 1945.

In 1991, the Blizzard published a request asking for recollections of ski patrol experiences in Italy. In the next month, a blizzard of letters arrived to confirm dozens of ski patrols in January and February 1945, as reported in the magazine Skiing Heritage (Fall 1995) in an article titled Before the Attack on Riva: Combat Ski Patrols. The patrols include the following.

- In early February, 87-F left Vidiaticcio on skis at dark…
- Bill Thompson went out on a ski patrol with 86-B led by Carl Casperson
- Bob Frauson and Jesse Shapiro (both 86-A) laid a communication wire at night from La Ca by snowplowing side by side, unrolling a 100 lb. reel.
- The longest Ski Patrol was a three-day patrol led by Don Traynor (86-HQ) near Bagini di Lucca
- The most difficult and daring was a patrol also led by Don Traynor up Mt. Spigolino, which was connected to Riva Ridge but towered over it. This patrol lasted about 24 hours with little food and no rest, and traveled some 25 miles mostly through German territory. Also on that patrol were Harry Slater (86-HQ), Carl Ginter (605-HQ), Steve Knowlton (86-HQ), and Harry Brandt (86-HQ).
- The late Fritz Benedict (126-HQ) reported that his patrol from the 126th Engineers skied from Vidiaticcio to Maresca — there they traded food with the monks in a monastery.
- Dick Byers (85-B) recalls a January 26 seven-man reconnaissance out of Montefegatesi in a heavy snowstorm.
- Another source of information about combat ski patrols comes from Vernon Cram (86-B) in a January 2006 letter to me that includes a RECORD OF EVENTS — COMPANY B, 86TH MOUNTAIN INF; compiled from morning reports written by Edwin Thirridge.

Following are excerpts from those Morning Reports:

- January 13, 1945 (Vidiaticcio, Italy), Patrol activity. No contact. First ski patrol sent out.
- January 14, 1945 (Vidiaticcio, Italy). Another ski patrol sent out. No contact. Snow all day.
- January 20, 1945. One three-man patrol failed to report in. [The three men were later found to have been casualties — Charles Norton (KIA), John Stetson (wounded and captured), and Jack Swanson (captured). This was a combat ski patrol, attested to by Vern Cram, Bob Thompson and Ed Fancher (all 86-B).

I believe the foregoing accounts corroborate usage of the term Ski Troopers as applied to soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division.

Ari Sletten (left) and Andy Hill on R&R in Rome, 1945.

JOHN HUBER, CENTENARIAN

Dick Wilson (85-M)

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John’s love of tennis was nearly equaled by his love of the mountains. For many years at the New England Chapter’s annual ski trips to Colorado, he served as grocery shopper and chef for a condo unit occupied by “skiing brothers.” John’s wide grin, sparkling eyes, great sense of humor and loyalty to his 10th Mountain Division comrades will certainly be long remembered by all who knew him. It is significant to note that John was 37 when he volunteered for the 10th, making him one of the oldest recruits in the division. He served throughout the Italian campaign with 86-C, earning the Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman’s Badge.
In the 2006 No. 1 Blizzard, I recommended that the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation set up a scholarship program to sponsor attendance by at least 10 wounded soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division at the 2007 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC), Snowmass, Colorado, March 31-April 7. As a result of this recommendation, and after a review of my proposal that included details about the required financing, at its July meeting the Foundation gave full approval for undertaking the project with support in the amount of $15,000.

“These wounded warriors are a very special part of our 10th Mountain Division family,” said Tom Hames, Foundation President. “This Foundation project will make it possible for us to help them discover new skills and abilities they may never have thought possible, allowing them to rise above the physical and mental limitations imposed by their injuries. This is the least we can do in repayment for their sacrifices incurred while serving with the 10th Mountain Division. The program also meets an immediate need for the Foundation to be proactive in projects that further strengthen today’s bonds of comradeship between the WWII 10th Mountain Division and its counterpart in the current 10th Mountain Division.”

Scholarship candidates will be recruited through a number of sources, including the Veterans Administration, military hospitals such as Walter Reed, Disabled Sports USA, the Wounded Warriors Project, and other similar organizations. They will be evaluated for their ability to participate in adaptive skiing and the clinic’s other physical activities by their physicians, therapists, and prosthetics technicians. Applicants will be further evaluated by the clinic’s staff of rehabilitation experts before final approval is granted for participation in the clinic. Sandy Trombeta, NDVWSC founder and director, is proud of the fact that his Brooklyn uncle (Fred Vitello, 85-HQ-3) served with the 10th in WWII. He noted that several WWII veterans of the 10th Mountain Division were among early pioneers of adaptive skiing in the U.S., most notably Jim Winthers (85-G), Larry Jump (87-HQ-2, MTG), Andy Hastings (86-I, 85-E), John Hurst (86-HQ, 86-A), and Karl Schmidt (86-B, 87-I).

During the clinic’s 20th year last winter, approximately 350 disabled veterans participated in the weeklong event. A large number of those participants had been injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. The clinic has produced several disabled veteran athletes who have occupied the winner’s medal podium at national and international competitions, including the U.S. National Disabled Ski Championships, the Winter Paralympic Games and the World Cup Disabled Ski Championships.

Watch a future issue of the Blizzard for a report and photographs on the experiences of 10th Mountain Division soldiers who were sponsored by our Tenth Mountain Division Foundation at the 2007 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

I’m sure there are many of you 10th veterans from the early Camp Hale days who are now in their eighties and would like to make a pilgrimage to the high country. I did it this past summer. I think others might be interested in doing it too — the geriatric way!

Last August I spent a week at a lodge in British Columbia. The lodge is located in the Columbia Mountains, geologically separate from the Rockies, which virtually surround them. The Rockies, which are softer rock, eroded around and exposed the Columbia Mountains. They are more jagged and steeper than the mountains we knew at Camp Hale. Every day or half-day we were taken up to a different mountain by helicopter to stroll around the glaciers and sky meadows with a guide. We were then picked up by helicopter at the end of the morning or afternoon. The summer is a great time for wild flowers, too, and of course the views were magnificent. I’m not very good on my feet these days, so I use a cane. But that was no impediment. They let everybody go at his own pace. Some days I had a guide all to myself. It was just great to be up there again. And if you are a chow hound like me, you will be pleased with the terrific chefs.

I plan to go again for a week starting July 9, and I hope some of you will join me. If you are interested, email me at macaluso68@verizon.net or call me at 202-265-4903. The company running the trips is Canadian Mountain Holidays, and they have been doing this for decades. They have an excellent safety record. If you can’t stay the week of July 9, they will take you for three days, and there are other tours during the summer, some for a week and some for three days.

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

Mono skiing is for persons who don’t have use of their legs and ski sitting down. Pictured is a Korean War veteran.
10TH LIGHT SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION

Operation Enduring Freedom
Afghanistan
February 2006-February 2007

1/LT Forrest P. Ewens
1-32 INF • June 2006

SGT Ian T. Sanchez
3-BSTB • June 2006

SFC Jared C. Monti
3-71 CAV • June 2006

SSG Patrick L. Lybert
3-71 CAV • June 2006

PFC Brian J. Bradbury
3-71 CAV • June 2006

CPL Aaron M. Griner
2-87 INF • June 2006

PFC Justin R. Davis
1-32 INF • June 2006

CPL Kevin F. Edgin
2-87 INF • July 2006

SGT Robert P. Kassin
2-4 INF • July 2006

SSG Robert J. Chiomento
2-4 INF • July 2006

SGT Carlos J. McClain
3-BSTB • October 2006

PFC Alex Ocequera
1-32 INF • October 2006

Operation Iraqi Freedom
August 2006-January 2007

PFC Sattrion V. Greenlee
4-31 INF • October 2006

PFC Keith J. Moore
2-14 INF • October 2006

PVT Thomas J. Hewett
1-89 CA V • October 2006

PFC Nicholas Rogers (Medic)
4-31 INF • October 2006

SGT Jason Denfriend
2-14 INF • December 2006

SPC Joshua Sheppard
642 Eng. Co • December 2006

SGT Curtis L. Norris
210 BSB • December 2006

SGT Christopher P. Messer
4-31 INF • December 2006

PFC Nathaniel A. Given
4-31 INF • December 2006

January 2004

CW2 Brian D. Hazelgrove*
3-17th CAV • January 2004

CW2 Patrick Dorr*
3-17th CAV • January 2004

1/LT Adam G. Mooney*
3-17 CAV • January 2004

*Not previously reported.

NOTES FROM THE 10TH IN AFGHANISTAN

Reprinted from the October/November 2006 Mt. Rainier Avalanche.

Marie Allen Smith, wife of Harold Alford (10-HQ) received the following email on September 1, 2006 from her nephew, Lt. Col. Jay T. Allen, M.D.

“I am assigned to 1/32 IN of the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. There are two airfields in our area of responsibility (AOR). One is close to the front lines and the majority of wounded and sick are taken there. The other is remote and is the refueling point for non-urgent missions due to its safety and closeness to Bagram and the Combat Support Hospital. It is here that a majority of the fatalities from our AOR are taken as they wait for further transportation to Bagram. Soldiers’ families cannot be notified until each person has officially been declared dead. Since there are only medics at the front lines, and since I am the only doctor at this location, this is usually the stopping point for KIAs en route to their final resting place, the duty to declare them dead has fallen to me. Most of those who have come to me for this duty are strangers, but some I have known. One was a flight medic whose equipment failed as he tried to extract a patient from a mountainside; two more were medics who were together when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED). But it doesn’t really matter whether they are strangers or acquaintances. As I stand side by side with my infantry brethren, the chopper comes to carry them closer to home. Choking back tears, we show our respect and honor for these brave young men with a simple military gesture. We render a salute. ‘Farewell, my brother. Farewell, my sister.’ I think about the mothers at home and the children who will not know the great individuals who were their parents. We hold our salutes until the helicopter is no longer in sight.”

THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LIGHT) SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mike Plummer (10 Lt.)

An article in the Blizzard (2006 No. 2) described a Scholarship Fund for members of the current 10th Mountain Division. Under the by-laws of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, these soldiers are not eligible for Foundation Scholarship monies. To address this situation, the Ft. Drum Chapter is raising funds to provide scholarships for 10th Light members and their families.

It is important that we move on this project as rapidly as possible so that we can award our first scholarships for the academic year 2007-2008. To date there have been 87 KIA and over 900 WIA 10th Mountain Division (Lt) soldiers, and with 12,500 soldiers currently deployed, the need is now and it will continue to grow. Please Help and show our soldiers you appreciate their service by contributing to this fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: “The 10th Mt. Div. (Light) Scholarship Fund” and mail to: Mike Plummer, President, Fort Drum Chapter, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, 121 Paddock Street, Watertown, NY 13601. If you have questions, please contact Mike Plummer at (315) 782-4178, or email at plummike@aol.com.

THE NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

From the Hudson, NY, Reporter — submitted by John Laurie III (85-K). The stories of more than 12,000 veterans who earned Purple Heart Medals have been shared with the recently opened National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, NY. An estimated 1.7 million service members have been awarded the medal for wounds suffered in combat — including those whose medals were awarded posthumously. The Hall is now open, and Purple Heart recipients and their families can share their stories. Write to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, P.O. Box 207, New Windsor, NY 12584, or call toll free at 877-28HONOR.


Bob O’Malley greets Gen. Colin Powell following Purple Heart ceremony at Walter Reed Army Hospital attended by 10th Light family members and friends.
JILL HAHN

It is with regret that we report that the 10th Mountain Division Descendants Executive Board has accepted Jill Hahn’s (daughter of Robert Hahn, 85-HQ-3) resignation as Vice President of Membership and Database. In addition, Jill has declined to accept the position of President of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants for the 2007-2009 term. Effective Vice President Val Rios, Son of Cruz Rios, Jr. (87-K) will become President of the organization effective January 1, 2007.

Jill states, “I am positive that the organization will continue to grow, flourish, and be able to recruit outstanding people who will have the same drive and determination to make the Descendants the best that it can be. I have been honored with meeting and corresponding with wonderful people and was able to call many of my friends.”

Over the last four years Jill has dedicated more time than she had available to ensure that the WWII 10th Mountain men are recognized and honored. Jill took on many jobs within the organization; however, her primary commitment was to ensure that descendants of 10th soldiers were identified and entered into the Descendant Database and became members of the Descendant organization. Under Jill’s direction, membership rose from 400 to 1,000 members with over 3,000 descendants identified and documented. As Vice President of Membership and Database, Jill devoted her Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks to entering membership information into the Descendant Database. Jill’s commitment to the Database has been the keystone to the Descendant organization. In addition to Descendant Membership and Database, Jill also served as Delaware River Valley Chapter Treasurer and Descendant Director.

10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. gratefully recognizes the dedicated time that Jill contributed to the well being of the organization and encourages Jill to enjoy all the good things of being a descendant, without the hours of work.

Cruz Rios
Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

My admiration and appreciation for the 10th Mountain Division began when I was a young boy putting on Dad’s (Cruz Rios, 87-K) uniform and marching around the house pretending to be a soldier. The Eisenhower jacket was way too big but I loved looking at it, admiring the patches and medals. Little did I know that it would be the beginning of a deep love for the 10th Mountain Division and an even deeper love for my father.

Dad did not talk much about his war experiences. I knew that he belonged to the ski troops and that his foxhole buddy was killed in Italy. In the late 1980s dad found out about the 10th Mountain Division Association and began attending reunions at Pismo Beach. In 1994 he returned to Italy on the Reunion Tour and when I picked Mom and Dad up at the airport he began to tell me about the trip. Almost immediately he began to cry and continued crying for quite some time. I knew that this trip had a profound impact upon him and opened up a flood of memories, both painful and pleasant. It was then that I wanted to know as much as I could about my Dad’s war experiences and his beloved 10th Mountain Division.

I had his slides made into prints and I tried to find out as much as I could about the 10th. In 2000 my dad and I went on the Italy Reunion Tour and that experience was just awesome! Since then I have become more involved with both the Association and Descendant groups. In 2002 I became Descendant Director of the Sierra Nevada Chapter and in 2005 was made Vice President of the 10th Mountain Division Association Sierra Nevada Chapter. Until now, I have been the Descendant Executive Vice President.

My relatively short time with the 10th Mountain Division has allowed me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful veterans, descendants, and friends of the 10th. I cannot tell you what it has meant to me, while traveling in Italy, to be able to walk in your foxholes and to hear your stories firsthand. It has indeed been a privilege to be part of such an honorable organization and you can be assured that I will do my best to maintain your legacy and pass it on to future generations.

I am very proud of my father, and as long as he is healthy I will continue to take him and my mother to 10th Mountain events. I am blessed with a wife, Georgina, who is very supportive of my 10th activities, and I am so glad that my two sons, Jacob and Dominic, also share a love for the 10th.

Vires Montesque Vincimus

ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS AT 2007 NATIONAL REUNION

There is much work being done behind the scenes for the “Hale and Farewell” reunion being held in Denver, Colorado at the Denver Marriott Tech Center on August 2nd through 5th, 2007. Descendants can help by offering assistance to the members and veterans of the 10th Mountain Division Association to ensure that they are able to attend and enjoy this wonderful time among friends.

Gestures as simple as helping association members organize rides to and from airports, carting luggage, assisting in the registration areas and aiding with locating hotel rooms are just a few ways you can help. The attendance for this reunion is anticipated to be some 800 people, which is twice the number of those attending the 2004 Austin, Texas reunion.

This is the last official national reunion that will be organized by the WWII veterans, so it is imperative that each and every one of these heroes attending has an enjoyable and memorable visit. You can make a difference by helping in one of these or many other areas. To learn more about the upcoming reunion visit www.10thmtndivassoc.org/reunion.html.

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO FEATURES 10TH

Coming soon to a radio near you, a special story on the 10th — told with a twist. Years in the making, this 10th feature is part of National Public Radio’s unique radio documentary project, Radio Diaries. This public radio project is on a mission to record powerful & timeless oral histories which become fascinating features airing on the NPR program All Things Considered.

While Inquiring Minds may want to know which 10th vets are profiled, we’ll have to get back to you on that — Radio Diaries is still recording the 10th interviews. But National Public Radio and Radio Diaries producer Joe Richman know a good story when they hear one, and we all know the 10th is full of them!

Stay tuned for a specific airdate on NPR’s All Things Considered, likely Spring of 2007. For more information on Radio Diaries, go online and check out their website at www.radiodiaries.org.

JOIN THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS

It’s easy. Go to the web site, 10th Mountain Division Descendants, and click on Descendant Application Form.
10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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this is the end of the Descendant Blizzard 2007 number 1
NEW EDITORIAL TEAM
Bryan Pullen (85-M)

Hello — my name is Bryan Pullen, the new editor of the Descendant Blizzard. I live in Oklahoma with my wife Jami and son Nolan. My 10th Mountain connection comes from my Grandfather Harold “Bud” Sutton (85-M). I am fortunate enough to have my Grandfather still with me and he lives 75 yards from me. I recently was able to fulfill a childhood dream by participating in the 2006 Return to Italy trip and retracing my Grandfather’s WWII route. Growing up I always heard him tell stories about his time in Italy and I especially loved hearing the part about capturing “Mussolini’s Castle” and the luxuries it contained. Sixty-one years after his experience, I found myself inside the Villa Feltrinelli, a.k.a. “Mussolini’s Castle,” alongside members of 85-K, just like my grandfather. The story of 85-K and one platoon of 85-M’s machine guns capturing Mussolini’s last residence has been a fascination of mine for the last several years. I had one article published on the operation and I am currently in the early stages of writing a book about the history of the villa from WWII through the present.

My passion for 10th Mountain history also transcends into 1/6 scale modeling. I have completed various representations of 10th soldiers and even had the pleasure of presenting one to Senator Bob Dole. It was a model of how he appeared in WWII and is now part of a display, which includes Senator Dole’s 10th Mountain personal effects at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, KS.

It is truly an honor to serve as editor and I proudly offer my services to this great organization. Along with Tyler Tollman (Desc. 87-B) and Tracy Negrete (Desc. 85-HQ-2), we will do our best to follow in the footsteps of Lisa McAllister (Desc. 86-M) and Pat Thornton (Desc. 85-A-L), who have done such a fantastic job on this publication. Please send any articles to the emails listed below or feel free to contact me at (580) 369-5515.

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The U.S.S. West Point was the ship that transported members of the 85th and 87th from Hampton Roads, Virginia to Naples, Italy in January of 1945. This piece of 10th Mountain Division history is still preserved today in an unusual way. The next issue of the Descendants Blizzard will feature the story of the ship and a personal account of the crossing of the 10th Mountain Division through the eyes of one of the ship’s sailors who accompanied them.

MIDWEST CHAPTER NEWS
Janice Fuglsang (Desc. 126-A)

The Midwest Chapter met in Kankakee, IL for its annual reunion beginning on September 10, 2006. We express our gratitude to Jerry and Diane (Milne) Jurina (desc. 616-B) for planning a wonderful event. Highlights included a memorial service at the Illinois Veterans Home, a tour of the facility and lunch with some of the residents. Jerry and Diane hosted a picnic at their home but due to heavy rains we could not utilize the big tent and the gathering was moved to the garage. We all had a great time.

“Something Special”, a very talented singing group of senior citizens, entertained us at the Farewell Banquet. They really are ‘something special’. We ended the evening with the descendants singing a senior citizen version of “Are you Lonesome Tonight,” which had us all laughing.

Patty (Soutar) LaRocca (desc. 616-HQ) arranged for our chapter to adopt a platoon and encouraged all of us to write letters and birthday/holiday cards to those serving in the 2nd Platoon 642 En Co (esc). She arranged a raffle to raise funds for supporting our platoon.

Midwest descendants welcome Patty LaRocca as our new Midwest Director beginning in 2007, and we thank Carl Nawrot (desc. 87-MED-D) for his service the last three years as our Director. Carl was elected as Treasurer for the Midwest Chapter and serves with veterans Jake Pollack (85-HQ-2), President, Jerry Jurina, Vice President, and veteran Kroy Ostergaard (85-D, 85-HQ-1), Secretary.

The next Midwest reunion is June 10-15, 2007 in Springfield, IL. Sharon (Pollack) Green is planning the reunion with her parents, Sophie and Jake Pollack. We invite descendants to join us and come as long as you can or as little as you can.

UTAH CHAPTER NEWS
By Sandy Eldredge (85-L)

In September, Bob Woody (85-C), Ron Sawdey (Utah Descendant Chapter Director), and Sandy Eldredge (Utah Chapter President) paid a sentimental visit to a memorial plaque in Park City listing 10th Mountain KIAs from Utah. The main reason for the “over the hill” trip, as Bob called it, is to figure out how to add another name to the memorial. Utah provided about 50 to the division, including the late H. Devereaux Jennings (85-I), 1948 Olympic racer who was recently installed into the Intermountain Ski Association Hall of Fame; and Tommy Mathews, a military Piper Cub artillery observer and, postwar, a co-founder of Common Cause. An intimate of the Kennedy brothers, he also organized Bobby Kennedy’s funeral train.

The photo below shows Ron Sawdey (Desc.87-B) and Sandy Eldredge (Desc. 85-L) looking at the memorial plaque mounted on a wall at the Park City Ski Area.

SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER DESCENDANTS OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Front Row from left to right: Vera (Allen) Coffer, Susan (Miller) Alexander, Joy (Hadselli) Ellison, Kathy Cangello, Sue Cangello, Mary Cangello, Ellen Davidson, Val Rios, Joel Harpainter; Back Row from left to right: George Alexander, Randy Cullen, Kevin Nierderman Cullen, Paul Harpainter, Mark Harpainter, Matt Harpainter.
INTERVIEW WITH 10TH DESCENDANT AND AUTHOR

CHARLES SANDERS

Patricia Finn Thornton (Desc. 85 A & L)

In 2005 another book on the WWII 10th Mountain Division hit the streets; however, this one had a different slant than recent books. The Boys Of Winter: Life And Death In The U.S. Ski Troops During the Second World War by Charles J. Sanders relates a compelling story of three soldiers Rudy Konieczny (87-F), Jacob Nunnemacher (87-B) and Ralph Bromaghin (87-HQ-3). While their backgrounds differ, their commonality of the love of skiing led them to become members of the 10th Mountain Division. Sanders’ focus on the lives of these three soldiers creates a personal and emotional link to the training for the battles that led to their deaths in 1945.

Author and 10th Descendant Charles Sanders (Nephew of Norm Gavin, 86-L) recently was the keynote speaker at the Delaware River Valley Veterans Day Luncheon and gave the following interview.

Q. Can you provide some information about your uncle?
A. My uncle, Norm Gavin, is 90 years old and lives in Carmel. Though he did not train at Camp Hale, he joined 86-L, once the Division arrived in Italy. He had served in North Africa and South ern Italy before joining the 10th, and he was awarded a Bronze Star for action near Lake Garda in April 1945. As I state in the book, he regarded his service with the 10th as the most positive of his Army experiences because of the egalitarian-ism of the unit. He was and is a very bright and confident non-conformist and fit right in with the free spirits he encountered in the ski troops.

Q. What was it about your uncle’s service that made you become interested in the 10th Mountain Division?
A. It was more the former members of the 10th who were the ski enthusiasts and instructors whom I met in the Berkshires growing up in the 60s and 70s that made an indelible impression. I would hear people in the ski community talking about the 10th with a certain reverence, and to know that a member of my family had been part of that family made me proud. It also made me very curious to understand who these guys were and what they had accomplished. Moreover, skiing in the Berkshires, one could not help but learn about the legendary Rudy Konieczny, who skied the Thunderbowl at Mount Greylock and gave his life as a member of the 87th Regiment at the very end of the war.

Q. Why did you decide to write your book about the 10th Mountain Division?
A. I wanted to pay homage to the men who taught me to ski, and to repay in small measure the ultimate sacrifice made by the men who had not yet been given a voice, despite the many terrific books on the 10th that have been written. I never served, and I wanted to pay tribute to the men who gave so much for me. This book enables me to “give something back” in some little way.

Q. How did you decide on the focus of the book?
A. Frankly, I was appalled at the seemingly cavalier attitude toward sending men and women into combat that members of the government displayed after 9/11. I spent that terrible day of 9/11 in Lower Manhattan and was as angry as anyone else was about our country being attacked. But I also got an “up close and personal” look at what ultimate sacrifice looks like, and I think it sensitized me even more to the fact that the men and women who do the sacrificing are not statistics — they are real people with real families, pasts and futures. As time went on leading up to the invasion of Iraq, I got the distinct feeling that there was a very severe disconnect between the non-military public and the soldiers about to do the fighting over what was personally at stake. Dwight Eisenhower said it best: “Men acquainted with the battlefield will not be found among the numbers that glibly talk of another war.”

That sentiment underlies everything in the book. Heroes are flesh and blood, and they give EVERYTHING for our freedom. It is our sacred duty as citizens to be damn careful that in placing our communal sons and daughters in harms way, we do so only for the most crucial and well thought out motives and objectives.

Q. What is the theme of the book?
A. Aside from the in-depth look at the full lives of the three main protagonists, Rudy Konieczny (87-F), Jacob Nunnemacher (87-B) and Ralph Bromaghin (86-HQ-3) and their pre-war skiing heroics, the theme of the book is to get the reader to feel as if they have known these boys since childhood, so that when they are lost, it means something personal.

The reader needs to understand that behind each war statistic is a real person, a father, brother, son or friend. I truly want each reader to feel in some small way that he or she knows, respects, and feels a genuine affinity and affinity for a person who was lost in combat and what that means. (See pages 203-204 of the book)

Q. How did you organize the book?
A. In order to accomplish the above, I chose to recount in great detail the lives of three boys whose lives were economically, geographically and personality-wise completely diverse, yet totally emblematic of the type of men who served in the 10th. That cross section allowed me to describe the pre-war ski world as it developed throughout the country, and to give the reader a sense that no matter what background he or she is from, there is a meaningful connection between the reader and at least one of the major protagonists.

Q. Where did you get the content for your book?
A. I spent four years researching original documents at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Room at the Denver Public Library, reading newspaper clippings, scouring all of the prior books written about the 10th, and conducting about 100 interviews with veterans of the 10th and the surviving family members of the main protagonists.

Q. What would you like your son, and his generation, to know about your uncle, the men with whom he served and the times in which they lived?
A. I think one of my proudest moments was when the late Jodie Brooks (86-F) gave me his son Jackson (then 7) a ski lesson at Keystone. I have written about that event in the Blizzard before, but I want Jackson to be able to say to himself some day that a Camp Hale veteran personally taught him to ski. It means something to me to be able to say that about myself, and I hope it will mean something to him, too, if he continues on his own to develop a love for the sport.

Much more important than that, though, I want him to understand what sacrifice in war really means, and that pride in country and family must exist side by side with a deep understanding that war must always be considered a last resort because of the horror and loss that inevitably accompanies it.

Q. Do you have any final reflections on the book?
A. It was one of the most satisfying projects of my life. I have been blessed throughout my life with great male role models, and now I have about thirty more to choose from in fashioning how I want to shape my own future if I am blessed with the longevity of these wonderful guys I still ski with.

Charles Sanders serves as counsel and senior vice-president of legal and international affairs to The National Music Publishers’ Association, Inc. and is director and executive vice-president of Artists Against Hunger and Poverty. Sanders is an associate member of the U.S. National Ski Patrol, and a member of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc.

You can purchase a copy of The Boys of Winter: Life and Death in the U.S. Ski Troops During the Second World War by Charles J. Sanders from the 10th Mountain Quartermaster, Frank Thornton, 112 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. Email patfrank4@verizon.net. Telephone: 610-667-2911.

ORAL HISTORY TRAINING AT THE DENVER REUNION

Abbie Kealy (Desc. 86-L)

Lights! Camera!! Oral History Training at the Denver Reunion!!! 4:30-5:30 pm on Thursday, August 2; repeated Friday, August 3 at 4:30-5:30 pm.

When you attend the upcoming 10th Reunion in August 2007, don’t miss a short, but action packed training session with everything you need to know to videotape compelling interviews and oral histories. Session comes with built-in Happy Hour to assure complete satisfaction.

Session includes “Top Ten Tips for Intriguing Interviews.” “Technical Techniques You Wish You Knew” and the ever-popular “Making the Most of the Main Protagonists.”

Q. Can you provide some information about your oral history session?
A. My name is Abbie Kealy and I am a Denver Reunion volunteer coordinator, and Oral History Project Coordinator Myrna Hampton, daughter of Lt. Colonel Hank Hampton.

You’ll also have a chance to put your interview skills into action later during the Reunion. All recorded 10th vet interviews will be sent to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans’ History Project.

Future generations will thank you, vets will thank you, we will thank you!!

Helping out has never been easier. Not too technical, not too intimidating, this training session is just right for everyone.

Save the Date: 4:30-5:30 pm on Thursday, August 2; repeated Friday, August 3 at 4:30-5:30 pm. Sign up upon arrival at the Reunion.
For the first time in many moons, the chapter migrated to Florida’s West Coast for an October 10-13 meeting in New Port Richey. The attraction is the town of Tarpon Springs settled by Greek sponge divers around 1900. Sponges are no longer commercially harvested, but fishing boats are moored at the wharfs and Greek restaurants line the main street. President Al Partridge (86-A), with wife Cindy’s help, presided over the three-day reunion. These meetings, as the years pass, become more nostalgic. Even the hotel brought back memories of Belvedere Day gatherings hosted by Mary and Bill Weber (616-HQ) and it was here that Bill sold me the red artillery jacket I still wear to 10th functions.

National President Emeritus Paul Gunderman (605-Med) was there with some of his Executive Committee: Executive Director Harry Coleman (86-B) with Lorraine, Quartermaster “Speed” Murphy (85-G) with son David and Blizzard Editor Ray Zelina with Carol. In the hospitality room former chapter presidents were in abundance. In addition to Paul Gunderman, Harry Coleman and “Speed” Murphy, Ted Fasting (616-HQ) and Bill Dyer (87-E) (with Yvonne) were also there. Except for Vice President Joe Hallgren (85-C), a long time chapter member who is moving to Texas, the chapter returned the present chapter officers for another term: President Al Partridge; Vice President Ray Zelina and Secretary/ Treasurer Ed Van Romer (87-I). Joe and Ann will be missed. The chapter voted unanimously to donate $500 to the Fort Drum Scholarship Fund as another way of showing the chapter’s appreciation to the soldiers of the 10th engaged in the present conflict.

The local area is synonymous with seafood. We dined at Christies on Tuesday day evening. Dolores Gunderman fixed me with an icy stare, and said, “Why was my name omitted from your last chapter column in the Blizzard?” You mentioned Paul. Why not me?” How could I miss a chapter fulfilled that mandate at the Hel- las Restaurant on Wednesday evening. A surprise was a complementary baklava (a sweet Greek pastry) for dessert. President Al and Cindy Partridge planned a marvelous final banquet. Dot and Art Ransdell (HQ-86) came from Oldsmar, and the Coleman’s daughter Denise and husband Warren drove from Tampa for the banquet. Bill & Debbie Edling (Bill is the grandson of Mary and Bill Weber, 616-HQ) also joined us for the banquet. Cadets from the 438th Civil Air Patrol posted and retired the colors and enjoyed pizza for their efforts. Catherine and Wayne Albright (604-A) cancelled due to health problems and donated their banquet payment for the pizza. We were treated to an excellent slide show on the activities of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) by CAP Lieutenant Rodman, assisted by CAP Lieutenant Miszewski. The efforts of the Civil Air Patrol were appreciated during the final banquet. We later learned that the complementary dessert on Wednesday evening was through the efforts of Lt. Miszewski’s wife. Thanks to Bill Weber, accountant Jeanne Zube entertained during dinner and added just the right touch to the banquet.

The hospitality room is always, “where it’s at.” Descendant Val Rios sent a DVD of the dedication of the WWII memorial that kept everyone’s attention during its viewing. A reporter dropped by and interviewed the group. The article was published in the Suncoast News on Veteran’s Day. Talk turned to the enjoyable Florida Belvedere Day celebrations Caroline and George Rosefield (85-E) host at Melbourne and Yvonne and Bill Dyer (87-E) at Sarasota. On February 18th, the South- east Belvedere luncheon at Marina Jacks restaurant was attended by Bill and Yvonne Dyer, Al and Catherine Albright, Edith and John Kurnik (86-HQ-3), Renee and Bill Henry (10 Lt). Bill retired from the service in 1996, and now has a son serving in Iraq. Ed Van Romer and Connnes Gilsepie are once again hosting the Spring Break in Greenville, South Carolina. The very best to everyone from the sunny South. You-all come see us.

At Whiteface Mountain on August 3, 200 veterans, soldiers, friends and relatives commemorated the activation of the Tenth Mountain Division in 1943. The Ft. Drum community provided soldiers, a band, flag bearers, rifle squad, and other personnel to make this annual event colorful and meaningful. As Bill Millette (86-A) observed, “This ceremony is a shared celebration of our Division, which keeps the Old Tenth and today’s soldiers tied together.” This sentiment was echoed by Bob Krause (87-G): “We old-timers don’t want to lose that feeling.” John Benson (87-G) summed it up by saying: “It helps keep the fighting spirit of the Division alive!”

This writer paid tribute to the “Brave and honored soldiers of the Tenth Mountain Division (Lt) who have fought with great courage and tenacious enemy in warfare vastly different from what we encountered in Italy. Their un- daunted devotion to duty demands our greatest respect and admiration. With deep honor we salute them today.”

Col. David J. Clark, Garrison Commander, speaking on behalf of Commanding General Freakley who is deployed in Afghanistan, talked of the success and sacrifices of the WWII troopers and his pride in being part of their legacy. He thanked them for their concern and support of the soldiers and families of the modern 10th. In closing, he assured those present that the Tenth (Lt) stands ready to continue its defense of our nation and our chosen way of life. The 338th Army Reserve Band from Ohio sounded forth in place of our own 10th Mountain Band, which is temporarily overseas. Food service personnel again provided a fine and generous luncheon to cap this very special day.

The chapter held its fall business meeting and social gathering at the Gar- net Hill Lodge on October 4-5. There was a comprehensive presentation on our National Foundation by Tommy Thompson (86-F). We were impressed by the scope of the Foundation’s activities. We adopted a proposal to donate funds to the scholarship program for 10th Lt. soldiers as promoted by Mike Plummer (10-Lt.). Phil Santassiro (87-K) presented information about the Purple Heart Hall of Honor, now under construction in the Hudson Valley. To encourage greater member involvement, we will explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the Metro New York chapter in the spring. There was a Veterans’ Day Cer- emony at Ft. Drum on November 8th; and the traditional Belvedere Luncheon was held on February 19 in Albany.

Stalwart troopers attending Garnet Hill were Beverly and Bill Millette (605-A), Bob Krusse (86-MED), Howard Sebald (605-A), Jean and Fred Vetter (86-MED-3), Emmy and Phil Santassiro, Shirley and Horton Durfee (86-L), Rorus Perkins (87-I), Lorraine and Harold McAfee (85-L), Shirley and Gene Moose (86-A), Don Stuart (87-L), and Bill Morrison.

We noted with regret the passing of our long-time chapter president Fred Shuler (86-C), survivor of the climb up Riva Ridge and recipient of three Bronze Stars. At the burial site, a full military service was conducted by the local VFW, assisted by the Honor Team from Ft. Drum. Fred had selected his final resting place high on a bluff overlooking his home town and the Susquehanna River Valley, a suitable resting place for a worth- ymountaineer. Veterans of the Tenth paying their respects were Majorie and Carl Newton (86-C), Mugsy and George Fuge (86-C), Shirley and Horton Dur- fee, Jane and Pete Austin (10-HQ), Betty and Jeff Benson (86-C), Charlotte and Duane Smith (85-HQ-3), Jacques Par- ker (86-C), and Bill Morrison.

Come to the beautiful North Country on June 27-30, 2007. Celebrate your service to the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division. This event will be a gathering of the new and old 10th Mountain Division veterans.

• Wednesday, June 27: Registration & reception.
• Thursday, June 28: Ft. Drum Day; Briefing on Afghanistan/Iraqi Opera- tions; Memorial Service. Lunch at a Ft. Drum dining facility with soldiers; visit the gift shop; shopping sales; bus tour of the Post; visit the Mountain Fest equip- ment/weapon displays; Division and Veterans pass-in-review. Return to hotel or stay for concert and fireworks display.
• Friday, June 29: Winery Tour; Thou- sand Islands boat cruise; unit dinners.

Sunday, June 30: General member- ship business meeting; Clayton Boat Museum and site of the Great 1812 Battlefield Tours; farewell banquet.

Saturday, July 1: Depart, or stay for a great North Country 4th of July celeb- ration.

Days Inn in Watertown will be the headquarters for all events. Room costs are not included in the registration fee. For reservations call Days Inn (315) 782-2700. Tell the clerk that you are part of the Ft. Drum Chapter reunion for discount. We are trying to keep the registration costs below $150 per person. Please get five of your Mountain Buddies to attend and make this a Climbing to Glory happening. Any questions? Email Mike Plummer at plummike@aol.com or phone: 315 782-4178

L to r: LTC Jacobma, Civil Air Patrol, Ted Fasting, “Speed” Murphy and chapter Secretary/Treasurer Ed Van Romer at the Southeast Chapter meeting in New Port Richey Florida.

UPSTATE NEW YORK
Bill Morrison (86-L)

FORT DRUM CHAPTER REUNION
Mike Plummer (10 Lt., Ret.)
In attendance at the chapter meeting at Colorado Springs on August 27 were: Scott Adams (10th Mtn. Marching Band), George Cahill (87-L), Bob Carlson, John Carroll (85-K), Earl Clark (87-HQ-1), Lefty Cormier (87-L), Art Delaney (87-L), Bonnie Douglas (desc. 86-H), Hugh Evans (85-A&C), John John (ASSOC), Ed Halstead (86-G, 87-L), Gene Hames (85-K), William Hoevers (10th Mtn. Marching Band), Ed Kirches (87-M), Nancy Kirck (86-H-DESC), John Litchfield (86-L & 10-HQ), George Londis, (86-H), Steve Mindock (87-A), Dick Over (110-Sig), Joe Perry (10 MED-D), Carl Peterson (ASSOC), Franci Peterson (HONORARY), Frank Romano, (86-K), Lu Scadit (FRIEND), Loretta and Orville Tomky (126-B), Stan Walker (86-A), Judy Whittemore (86-H-DESC), Les Whittemore (87-H), Joan and Adne Wilde (86-I), Charles Woudenberg (85-L-R) and Neil Yorker (87-L). We were shocked to learn that Lefty Cormier died the next day after he appeared to be in good health at the luncheon. Many vets attended Lefty’s funeral services on August 31st at his church. His wife Betty Lou then hosted a reception at their home. He was interred the next day at Fort Logan Military Cemetery.

We have received our first and second Reunion sponsorship funds from an anonymous donor and from Joe Perry (10-MED-D). These gifts are much appreciated and will help considerably in keeping our costs as low as possible. Bill Ludemann (85-HQ-3) has sent us 50 very special table decorations. Preparations for the Reunion are proceeding smoothly thanks to a dedicated volunteer planning group and its fearless leader Hugh Evans. Chere Mitchell History Group’s Reunion Book/DVD, which will be available about 18 months after the Reunion, will contain interviews and photos of all attending vets. This organization is responsible for finding donors to keep this book at an affordable price — the target is $30 or less. The trip to Camp Hale has drawn much interest, and it now appears that the lunch will be both indoors and out under tents.

Some Western Colorado vets attended the funeral in September of a Tenth Mountain Soldier, 21 year-old Corporal Christopher F. Sitton of Montrose. Chris served with the Eagle Scout and Class A skier mission on the high school track team. He joined the Army in 2004, and was killed by a roadside bomb in August in Afghanistan. He was a Combat Medic with hopes of going to Medical School. The Funeral was held at Montrose High School and his remains were taken to the Grand View Cemetery by a horse-drawn 1867 hearse-coach donated by a local gentleman in Montrose. Attending the service were Robert Hoover (86-B), Charlie Leggiero (10-HQ, & 86-F), Bill Farrow (85-R), and Dave Dearborn (Desc. 85-MED).

Announcing the yearly luncheon in Grand Junction in September were Joan and Bill Farrow (85-HQ, E), Dave Dearborn, Tyia and Thor Growsed (ASSOC), Dave Jennings (87-F & MTG), Charles Leggiero, Neil McKinstry (10-AT), Crosby Perry-Smith (86-HQ-2), Faith and Dave Reed (85-I), Bonnie Sayre (126-ENG-HQ, W), Dick Wellington (86-B & 10-RECON) and daughter Coy, and Clark Wingate (87-L). Bill Farrow has donated this Western Slope activity for a number of years. Our annual Christmas party was donated by Dave Christie (desc. 85-F), son of the deceased Neal Christie, at his wonderful event center in G恩nessee, marking the seventh time that we have been Dave’s guests. He hosted many hungry vets and descendants. To us, his generosity seems overwhelming.

In August 2006 our descendents, under the direction of Kate Raabe (desc. 86-MED-D, planned and held our annual summer picnic. Over 40 attended including 12 veterans. More and more we will depend on the descendents to take on responsibility to carry on our traditions. In attendance at our July chapter luncheon meeting were some soldiers of the First Space Battalion from Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs. Their commander, Lt. Colonel Lee P. Gizi is trying to arrange for our veterans to witness an infantry training exercise at Fort Carson. The First Space Battalion’s mission is to receive real-time satellite images from combat zones and transmit them to appropriate operations centers overseas. For modern technology we say — Hooah!

Bill Kehres (85-F) had good things to say about his volunteer experience at the USO at Denver International Airport assisting retired veterans, current military personnel and their families. Bill, Dick Over and George Loudis serve at least twice a month at this facility, which can be a fine resting place with refreshments for those flying in and out of Denver. It is located near concourse A (Frontier’s concourse). Any retired military 10th vets or current 10th Light airline passengers will be welcome to take advantage of its services during our 2007 Reunion.

At the tri-chapter reunion September 12-15 of the Big Sky, Mt. Rainer and Northwest Chapters at the Coeur d’Alene Casino in Worley, Idaho, attendees were treated to a wonderful 10th Mountain Division display. Michael Myers (Honorary), a collector of 10th Mountain Division WWII memorabilia and his wife, Connie, presented a winter camping scene with a display of nearly a dozen different uniforms, photos and other materials. Michael noted that he started attending meetings to get information for his collection, but found new friends, and that was the best part.

Dale Smith (10-MP), Mt. Rainer Chapter President, opened the combined chapters meeting by acknowledging those who helped organize the joint event. The Big Sky Chapter handled the reservations, Mt Rainer Chapter was in charge of the organization, and the Northwest Chapter made the arrangements. Trux Dole, grandson of C. Minot (Minnie) Dole who formed the 10th Mountain Division and the National Ski Patrol, is a board member of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation. Trux reported on the management of the Foundation. The yearly interest on the core fund is used for operation costs, program obligations, Tennessee Pass memorial and memorial sites in Italy, the Denver Public Library 10th Mountain Division Resource Center photos project, scholarships, and special projects. Larry Wilson (desc. 87-HQ-1) a 10th Mountain Division Descendants board member, spoke on the role of the descendents organization.

Cliff SJohnn, a member of the Coeur d’Alene tribe and Vietnam veteran, welcomed the attendees to the Coeur d’Alene Lodge. He gave history of the Coeur d’Alene tribe and closed by paying tribute to the warriors in attendance and singing a warrior’s song for them.

After the banquet, John Duffy (86-HQ-2), National Association President, reported on the past year’s accomplishments of the Association, including the very successful return to Italy trip. He said he hopes such tours will continue. He encouraged everyone to attend the 2007 National Reunion in August in Denver. This will be John’s last year as National president, so he shared his vision for the future of the Association. North-west Chapter president Ed Flabetich (86-A), gave John a mountain print as a memento of his visit.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Jim Belcher (87-HQ-1), Barney Iertsen (616-HQ), Ray Johnson (85-G), Stan Walsh (10-MED-B), Ed Stowell (87-HQ-2), Leo Erhardt (86-B), and Dan Rudder (604-HQ). Eleanor Coop, wife of Bob Coop (87-B) received a Meritorious Service Award for all her years of assistance to the Big Sky Chapter. Suz Cramer Rittenhouse (descendent 87-HQ-2) was presented with a Meritorious Service award for her editorship of the Big Sky Chapter Mini-Blizzard. A special presentation of a 10th Mountain Division blanket was given to Arlene Priest for her hard work registering the attendees for the meeting.

The traditional memorial service took place Friday morning on the casino grounds. The Coeur d’Alene Warrior Society presented United States, 10th Mountain Division, and Coeur d’Alene Tribe flags. Rev. Webster Barnett (86-HQ-1) led the members in prayer. Cliff SJohnn paid tribute to all warriors, and asked for a blessing for the 10th Mountain Division warriors. Ernest Stensgar, member of the Warriors Society and past president of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, presented a bronze of a Coeur d’Alene Indian scout to the National Association. Dale Smith accepted the gift for the Association and will present it to the Resource Center in Denver for display. The service ended with Taps, a final prayer, and singing of God Bless America.

**TRI CHAPTER REUNION:
BIG SKY, MT. RAINIER,
NORTHWEST**

**Suz Rittenhouse (Desc. 87-HQ-2)**

At the tri-chapter reunion September 12-15 of the Big Sky, Mt. Rainer and Northwest Chapters at the Coeur d’Alene Casino in Worley, ID, are, 1 to r: Ed Stowell, Ray Johnson, Barney Iertsen, Leo Erhardt, Dan Rudder, Stan Walsh, and Jim Belcher.

**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.duffy@worldnet.att.net. Send articles, photographs and notices to the Editor for publication in the Blizzard.
It was a banner summer for the New England Chapter. In mid-July we held annual ceremonies at Shirley and Warren Bartlett’s (87-T) 10th Mountain Division Memorial Garden in Lancaster, NH. As always, flower plantings and small American flags marked each of the more than sixty white crosses in memory of 10th Mountain Division comrades. We then gathered in a nearby forest clearing to enjoy wine and camaraderie. Later, more than 70 adjourned to Cabot’s Motor Lodge for the traditional buffet luncheon. All in all, another memorable day in the history of the New England Chapter.

A few weeks later, we assembled for the 24th annual Mt. Washington Climb and Memorial Ceremonies at the chapter’s memorial plaque on the 6,288 foot summit. This mountain often has severe weather conditions, and retains the world’s wind speed record of 231 MPH. As in many past years, the extreme weather conditions made it necessary to hold the memorial services in the summit house. Chapter President Jack Barton (87-HQ-1) read the list of 12 chapter members who had died during the past year. The 10th Mountain Division’s KIA Roll of Honor for the previous twelve months was presented by SFC Roy Mitchell: fourteen soldiers from 2006 was presented by SFC Roy Mitchell: fourteen soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom, nine from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. SFC Pat Muir who usually organizes the Fort Drum climbing team is currently serving in Afghanistan. Following the ceremonies, there was a chicken barbecue picnic at the nearby Wildcat Ski Area, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Chet and Laurrette Morley in making the necessary meal arrangements. The national organization’s Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bill Osgood (87-C) for his many years of effort in behalf of chapter projects. The chapter’s Spirit of the Mountain award was presented to Newc Eldredge in recognition of his 24 years as club organizer and leader.

To top off the chapter’s 2006 schedule came the annual fall luncheon at the Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London, NH. The dining room was packed to capacity with approximately 110 people on hand to enjoy the event, expertly organized once again by the chapter’s “hostest with the mostest,” Jean Dearborn (85-MED, W). At a brief business meeting it was determined that the annual winter gathering will return to the Cortina Inn, Pico Peak, VT, March 23-25. The directors approved a contribution of $2,000 to the 10th Mountain Division (Light) Scholarship Fund.

Without notice, the Yankee Grill in Ballard, site of Mt. Rainier chapter luncheons, dinners, and Board meetings for several years, closed! The Board has moved to Andy’s Diner, a restaurant in a cluster of vintage railroad cars where they now regularly meet in the former private car of President Franklin Roosevelt. Then began a search for another location for the membership luncheons and dinners. Rich Morse, descendants’ chairman, provided the solution — the Seattle Yacht Club, where Rich, a member, was continuing a tradition started by his father, “Beanie” Morse (85-H), hosting one Sunday meeting a year especially for descendants whose work schedules prevented them from attending the mid-week luncheons. Now all meetings during the fall and winter are held in the Club. The cuisine is gourmet — salmon with pesto sauce, New York steak, lobster, scallops, and more. The cost, somewhat higher than the Yankee Grill, is partially subsidized by the Chapter treasury to make it affordable for all those who wish to attend.

The transition was not all smooth, however. The page 1 headline on the Chapter’s November newsletter AVALANCHE read, “MEETING ALERT: DECEMBER DATE CHANGED!” An explanatory note said, “Due to a mental lapse suffered by all Mt. Rainier chapter board members who, after unanimously approving the change of the meeting date from the second Tuesday to the third Wednesday in December, promptly forget what they had done, so all previous announcements of the December luncheon date are in error.” Happily, members got the word and a large group of 55 made it to the gala Christmas luncheon, with carol singing led by Gordy Dick (87-G), and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, Mary and John Hendron (87-MED-3).

New officers took over in November. Karl Stingl (87-HQ-1), President; Norm Brooks (86-HQ-1), 2nd Vice President; Edward Gibson (MTC), 2nd Vice President; Warren Elmer (10-HQ), Secretary; Royce Ward (10th INF), Treasurer; Hal Alford, Editor.

In January, the Board set the schedule for luncheons in 2007 as posted in the Events block on page 3 of the Blizz.

Participants at the Memorial services in the Mt. Washington summit house included SFC Roy Mitchell (10th Light) (left) and LTC Matthew Fitzgerald, commandant of the Army Mountain Warfare School. This was the 5th year that LTC Fitzgerald participated in the Mt. Washington climb. Sgt. Mitchell incurred severe combat injuries in Iraq, including loss of one leg. He started skiing last winter.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Pam Pikla (Desc. 10-AT-A)

There was a chapter meeting and luncheon on October 22nd at the Rose Restaurant, followed by a visit to Ft. Mc Henry. An invitation was issued to the amputated wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Hospital, but they were unable to attend as they had suffered major losses that week. In attendance at the meeting were Dan Muffoletto (87-HQ), Michael Muffoletto (son), Ed Doyle (85-M), Charlie Rittenhouse (son-in-law), Elaine and Bill Magrath (Associate), Mary and George Welch (86-E), Elizabeth (Welch) Wood, Fred Wood, Christopher and Antigone Doucette (descendants 87-HQ-3), Mary and Al Nencioni (85-I), Oscar F. Baxter, IV, Oscar F. Baxter, V, Mary and Norm Burkey (desc 85-C), Hassell Vass (10-AT-A) and Pam (Vass) Pikla. The prize for the longest drive to the meeting goes to Oscar Baxter IV (86-I) and son, Oscar F. Baxter V, who drove all the way from Virginia Beach, VA.

Elaine and Bill Magrath showed a photo of the Medal of Honor flag they received in honor of the 10th’s only WWII Medal of Honor recipient, John Magrath (85-G), Bill’s brother. This flag was not received through normal channels; Peter Lemon donated his own flag. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to contribute $1,000 to the 10th Light Scholarshlp Fund.

We continue to make bimonthly visits to wounded 10th Mountain Division (Lt) soldiers at Walter Reed. Unfortunately, the numbers have increased recently. On November 2nd visitors were Hassell Vass, Ed Doyle, George Welch, Al Nencioni, Oct Covington (86-MED-HQ), Bill Magrath, Charlie Rittenhouse (Ed Doyle’s son-in-law), Mary Welch, Elizabeth (Welch) Wood, Elaine Magrath, Norm Burkey (desc. 85-C) and Steve Coffey (desc. 87-F). Joining them was Mrs. Bobbi Infanti, visiting at the request of her husband, LTC Michael J. Infanti, who is currently serving with the 10th Light in Iraq. Elaine Magrath brought 9 lap robes as gifts for the wounded soldiers — she has now made in excess of 100. The group visited first with in-patients in the hospital and then went to Mologne House for lunch. The wounded soldiers we visited were Cpl. Alejandro Albarran, Lt. Scott Quilty, and Channing J. Moss.

Anyone who would like to donate funds for gifts to wounded 10th Light soldiers can send a check payable to Washington, DC Chapter, 10th Mountain Division Association, and send to Hassell V. Gass, 3707 Red Groove Road, Baltimore, MD 21220.

WALTER REED ARMY HOSPITAL

Sgt. Dennis Cline

Sgt. Nathan Robinette with Hassell Vass.

MIDWEST

Ken Hanson (85-MED-2)

Bradley, Illinois was the location for the annual chapter meeting September 10-15, 2006. Much of the work in planning, preparing and carrying out the party was done by descendants Jerry and Dianne Jurina (Raymond Milne, 616-B), assisted by Carl and Lynn Nawrot (Stanley Nawrot, 87-MED-D), Ken Hanson and Patty LaRocca (Richard Sourat, 616-HQ) and Janice and Ron Fugsang (Martin Bockelmann 126-A). Sunday was early birds’ day but almost everyone came then. Registration was Monday with 45 the official count. The welcoming banquet took place that evening at the Quality Inn and Suites Hotel, site of the meeting. There was a visit to the Kankakee Train Museum in the old Illinois Central train station on Tuesday. Several gauges of toy trains were displayed with much railroad memorabilia. After a catered box lunch there, golf in the afternoon was at the Shamrock Golf Club. The Peoria system was used for the competition, and the winning team was Kroy Ostergard (85-D, 85-HQ-1), Dianne Jurina and Ed Barys (604-C).

Wednesday afternoon a general meeting was held at the Jurina’s home on the Kankakee River. Then it rained! The catered dinner was held in their garage so everyone stayed dry! A memorial service was presided over by chapter president Robert Foreman (85-L, M) held on Thursday at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno. The MOMC, Illinois High School honor guard presented the colors and the Rev. Gerald Landby (86-L-M) read a list of the names of the fallen, and offered a meditation. After the service, meeting attendees lunched with some of the residents. Thursday was the Farewell Banquet and the installation of officers for 2006 to 2009. They are Jacob Pollack (85-HQ-2), President; Jerry Jurina (desc.), Vice President; Kroy Ostergaard, Secretary, and Carl Nawrot (desc.), Treasurer. The next reunion will be held in June 2007 in Springfield, IL.

METRO NEW YORK

Jay Charles (85-C)

Our adopted platoon is 1st platoon Blackhawk Co., 2nd, 87th, 10th Mountain Division (Lt). Director Bob O’ Malley (85-L), our chair of the Wounded in Action committee, reports that platoon leader 1st Lt. Derek Martin and 3 troopers were wounded in Afghanistan during an engagement in which 30 Taliban fighters were killed. Lt. Martin is currently receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Hospital for a shrapnel wound to his right eye. Bob noted that Lt. Martin was given his personal attention. Lt. Martin sends his best wishes and thanks to Metro and the American Legion for the packages that the platoon has been receiving. SFC Christopher Norris, Acting Platoon leader, reports that the morale of the men is “Top-Notch” and the wounded men will recover. Bob O’Malley further reports that the 10th Mountain Division (Lt) troopers wounded in action with authorized hospital leave have been treated to dinners at “Hooters” under the supervision of SSG Francisco Osuna, our 10th Mountain Liaison at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Metro’s thanks to our civilian benefactors who provided the financial gifts to help the morale of our wounded troopers. Metro plans to continue with these dinners as long as the funds hold out.

The tenure of Association Quartermasters Jane and Peter Austin has been a big success. The size of their operation — and the number of satisfied customers — can be judged by the fact that every year they were in office, they did $40,000 worth of business and averaged over 1,000 mailings per year. Their ingenuity in finding new items to sell and their dedication to serving customers’ needs have been exceptional. By carefully controlling expenses and investing in two catalogs (both in color) to advertise their wares — they generated sufficient net income to fund a dozen projects for the Association. Among them were the following:

- A $5,000 contribution to Abbie Kealy’s documentary video, “The Last Ridge.”
- $5,000 to help fund publication of the Association’s 2004 roster.
- $5,000 to finance a video recording of the Return to Italy 2003 tour by Abbie Kealy and Bill Bealmear.
- Support for publication of four books for sale by the QM, including Mac MacKenzie’s History of the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers: 10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy 1945, by John Imbrie and Tom Brooks; Mission Ucline: The 10th Mountain Division at the Yugoslav Border, by Tom Brooks and John Imbrie; and 10th Mountain Division Battle Site Photos: Then and Now, by John and Barbara Imbrie.

John Imbrie says, “Without the financial support of the Quartermasters, we would not have been able to get three of those books into print. And eventually, sales of the books made a profit for the QM.” Treasurer Danny Murphy (CPA) says: “Thanks to Jane for her superb accounting and reporting!”

The Austins tripled the value of the inventory during their tenure, and gave their successor, Frank Thornton, $21,000 to start his operation. As a final measure of the success of their operation, the Austins were able to make a $10,000 contribution to the Association from QM funds. Their total donations to various Association projects was $55,000! They will be attending the National Reunion in August, so you’ll have a chance to say, “Well done, Peter and Jane!”

C COMPANY REUNION
Walt Neller (85-C)

On August 24 to 26, 2006, 85-C held a reunion at the Double Tree Hotel in Colorado Springs. Four members of the 2nd squad, 2nd platoon of 85-C attended, making it a very special occasion. Don Olson, Jay Charles, Clem Paycheck and Walt Neller were delighted to see each other and reminisce. Through the years there have been many C Co. reunions with two, three or four 2nd squad members present. After 60 years it was heart-warming to reunite with so many men who share the same memories and fears we all faced during our WWII days. It was interesting to recall events individually and collectively during those days and fun to catch up on what our buddies have done since. It was truly amazing to discover how many different careers and paths our lives have taken, and yet how we have all hung onto the values we treasured then, as we do now. There will always be that bond that can only be shared by those who have faced combat together.

A special thanks goes to Joe Berry for organizing this great reunion.

NEW BOOK
THE MOUNTAINEER’S PONTIFF
William L. Putnam (85-L, 87-L) explores the life of Damiano Achille Ratti, also known as Pope Pius XI, and his exploration of mountaineering in his new book, The Mountaineer’s Pontiff: Achille Ratti, published by AuthorHouse. Putnam describes the education and family background and Ratti’s origins in the small northern Italian city of Desio. He also provides a backdrop of the world events that shaped his tenure as Pope, as well as ‘others’ reactions to his admonishments of the dictators of his day — Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin. Putnam details Ratti’s more notable climbs on alpine peaks, the most famous being the fearsome Marinelli Couloir on Monte Rosa. Putnam repeated Ratti’s famous climb on Mount Rosa after his WWII service. Putnam is a leading authority on the mountains of Western Canada, a former television broadcaster and editorialist, and currently the sole trustee of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. He has written numerous works, including The Great Glacier and Its House (1982); A Yankee Image (1991); A Centennial History of the American Alpine Club (2002); and numerous climbers’ guidebooks to the Rocky Mountains of Canada and Interior Regions of British Columbia. For more information, visit www.authorhouse.com.

THEN AND NOW: 2ND SQUAD, 2ND PLATOON, 85-C.

MAIL CALL

WHICH DIVISION PIN IS THIS?

Ed. Note: A Mail Call in Blizzard 2006 No. 1, “Which Division’s Pin is This?” by William Kohn (86-F) asked for identification of the pin shown below. Max Womack responded with a Mail Call in Blizzard 2006 No. 2. Following are two more responses.

I found the pin shown in the Blizzard Mail Calls in a collection of military accoutrements from old 10th Division days. This pin was worn by 10th Division Headquarters and Staff personnel. I was aide-de-camp to MG Walter Veager, Commanding General of the 10th Division during 1957-58, while stationed in Wurzburg, Germany. I left a message for Max Womack. I hope this clears up the inquiry.

Rod Vitty (10th INF)
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the State of Vermont
P.O. Box 151
Quechee, VT 05059
(802) 295-1914.

The insignia you show under Mail Call in the Blizzard was worn by the 10th Infantry Division’s Special Troops Detachment while serving in Germany between 1954 and 1958. The 10th Special Troops included the Division’s staff officers and support units such as Quarter-master. The 1957 Tenth Division yearbook shows a number of photos of men wearing this insignia both as a pin on their epaulets and as a pocket patch on their fatigue and field jackets. I have in my collection a desk nameplate for Elmer Powelson who served in the 10th Division’s Quarter-master unit. This nameplate includes a representation of both the divisional shoulder sleeve insignia and the 10th Special Troop insignia.

Michael Myers (Honorary)
17810 S.W. Shasta Trail
Tualatin, OR 97062

IN APPRECIATION

Random House Publishing has again this year donated 100 copies of The Last Ridge by McKay Jenkins to the National Association. The books are given to 10th Light soldiers wounded in action and recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center during visits by local veterans and descendants led by Washington DC chapter president Hassell Vass (10-AT-A). To date Random House has provided a total of 200 copies to us. We thank Random House and author McKay Jenkins for their generosity.

Steve Coffey (desc. 87-F).

THANK YOU!

Letter written to Elaine Magrath after a visit to CPL. Adam Shaffer at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

I am Corporal Adam Shaffer’s mother and I wanted to thank you again for stopping in to see my son today. It is very uplifting for him to know people really do care what happens to the soldiers. The kind gift of the afghan went on his bed right after you left. A thousand Thank-yous for your time and dedication to our injured soldiers.

Take care and God Bless you.

Sheila Shaffer

PLEASE HELP IDENTIFY

Who is this man receiving his commemorative cap from Mayor Polmonari in Lizzano during the Sempre Italia tour? He is not Bob Carlson, as incorrectly reported in the special Italy Blizzard.

END OF MAIL CALL

ALL 85-HQ-3

Apologies to these 85-HQ-3 veterans for the typo that listed them as 87-HQ-3 in the Descendant Blizzard, 2006 No. 2. L to r: Jim Gilson, Bill Ludemann, Donat Martin, Ray Makela, Jill Hahn (Desc.), Chuck Hauptman.

THE PAPERS OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, chaired by Rocco C. Siciliano (87-HQ-1), in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins University Press, has produced an electronic reproduction of the Presidential Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower. These papers are instantly accessible to everyone, as they are a complete electronic reproduction of the eight printed volumes in a pleasing visual and fully searchable format. Visit the Eisenhower Memorial Commission’s website at http://www.eisenhowermemorial.org, and click on the Presidential Papers icon. The electronic reproduction of these papers will be part of an Eisenhower National Memorial to be created in Washington, DC.

BUDDY HUNTER

ALVIN CLEO WILLIAMS

My father’s name was Alvin Cleo Williams. He was from White Deer Texas. He was in 87-HQ at Camp Hale. I am not sure when he was there. He was later transferred to SHAEF in Europe. He was a T-5 grade and was discharged on 2/10/46. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew him.

Thanks for your help.

Dale Williams.
806-674-2648

ARNOLD F. GUSTAFSON

My father, Arnold F. Gustafson, served in 87-B. He lived in Elgin, IL when he went into the service. At 27 he was a little older than most of his fellow troopers. I would love to hear from anyone who may remember him. He passed away in March of 1994 and never talked much about his service years. He is sadly missed.

Thanks for your help.

One of his proud sons,
Dick Gustafson
818 Michigan Street #7, Delavan, WI 53115
Email: dickgustafson@johnsterling.com

PFC ALEX L. HENNESSEE

PFC Alex L. Hennessee, from Stanislaus, California, served with the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Swift and in Italy. He was a member of the Medical Detachment, 86th Mountain Infantry and may have been a company aid man in the 1st Battalion. I’m looking for any information about him, but especially what specific unit he was with and for photos of him wearing his medic’s helmet in Italy.

Thank you for your help.

Michael Myers, 17810 SW Shasta Trail, Tualatin, OR 97062
Email: 10thmountain@gmail.com
Eridon, John (604-A, 604-B), February 4, 2007, Dearborn, MI. He is survived by his wife Florence, 3 children, and 4 grandchildren. He was an automotive engineer with Ford Motor Co. for 34 years.

Finn, Aloysius Gardner (110 SIG, 87-HQ), December 20, 2006, Carmichael, CA. He is survived by his children and 3 grandchildren. He was an insurance broker with the family firm of Finn and Finn Insurance in Santa Cruz, CA.


Gilbert, John Edward (86-G), July 27, 2006, Sunbury, PA. He is survived by his nieces and nephews. After WWII he rejoined the Army and saw action with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. He served as part of the honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier before retiring from the service.

Gilmam, Stephen H. (86-E, 90-C, 86-I), October 23, 2006, Burlington, VT. He is survived by a son, a daughter and a grandson. He practiced law in Bennington, VT until his retirement.

Goodrich, Benjamin F. Jr. (86-HQ-3), May 2, 2006, Duxbury, MA. He is survived by his wife Natalie.

Gordon, Lloyd A. Sr. (90-HQ, 86-A, 86-HQ-2, 86-HQ-2, 86-HQ-1), September 8, 2006, Germany, CA. He is survived by his wife Betty, a son, a daughter, 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He was a volunteer member of the National Ski Patrol for 50 years.

Hames, Eugene S. (85-K, 85-HQ-3, 86-HQ-2, 86-B, 86-E), November 23, 2006, Englewood, CO. He is survived by his wife Verna, a son, 2 daughters, and 2 grandchildren. He was a trial lawyer in the Wood, Campbell, & Hames firm. He loved fishing, and fished most of Colorado’s high country. He was co-director, and later chairman, of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation.

Harris, John R. (86-E), November 16, 2006, Santa Fe, NM. He is survived by his wife Pamela, 4 children, 2 stepsons, his dog Coo, and many friends.

Hawley, Sam (86-B), October 4, 2006, Twin Mountain, NH. He is survived by his wife Beverly, 2 sons, a daughter, three stepchildren, 10 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He worked for the Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, CT, and had a 46-year career as a Ski Patrolman.

Helstrom, Donald E. Sr. (87-F), October 28, 2006, Millinocket, ME. He is survived by his wife Grace, 2 sons, a brother, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, and his nieces and nephews. He retired as the B&A Railroad after 38 years of service.

Hoffstetter, William Franklin (85-E), August 11, 2006, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Barbara, 3 daughters, 4 sons, a brother, 2 sisters, and 15 grandchildren. His lifelong career was criminal justice and counseling.

Hough, Thomas (605-B), December 2005, Dayton, OH. He is survived by 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. He was the sole survivor of the founding of the DUKW on Lake Garda.


Jensen, Chester E. (86-C), August 12, 2006, Ogden, UT. He is survived by 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He began his career with the U.S. Forestry Service in 1948, retiring in 1980.

Kazarian, Ralph (75-FA), May 10, 2006, Portland, ME. He is survived by his wife Jean, 4 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and his nieces and nephews. He had a 40-year career as a journalist, including 15 years as a senior science writer for the National Science Foundation.

Krekes, Carl D. (85-B), December 12, 2006, Redmond, MI. He is survived by his wife Irene, a daughter and stepchildren, his grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He worked in labor relations for Kelvinsor, retiring in 1986, and became the Cascade Township Manager for 10 years.

Kuessow, William R. (604-HQ-3), May 17, 2006, Kenosha, WI. He is survived by his wife Betty, 7 children, and 18 grandchildren.

Makela, Ray (85-HQ-3), October 27, 2006, Waterford, MI.

Maynard, Ervil (Pete) (616-A, 605-HQ-5), November 8, 2006, Lake Placid, FL.

McGrody, Paul E. (605-C), September 25, 2006, Dayton, OH. He is survived by a son, a brother, 6 nieces and a nephew. He retired from NCR.

Messier, James A. (85-F), October 18, 2006, N. Attleboro, MA. He is survived by his wife Ila Mae, 2 sons, 2 daughters, and 4 grandchildren. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years.

Moore, James A. (87-D), January 22, 2007, Melbourne, FL. He is survived by 2 sisters, 2 daughters, a son, 7 grandchildren, his great grandchildren, and his nieces and nephews. He worked at Cushman’s Furniture and Bennington College (VT) as a carpenter.

Moore, Russell M. (86-C), August 12, 2006, N. Attleboro, MA. He is survived by 2 sons, a daughter, 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He was a health physicist for the Oregon State Health Division’s Radiation Control Section. He was involved in state oversight of radiation sources at local corporations, hospitals, and universities.

Walsh, John P. (“Knobby”) (85-A, 86-K, 86-HQ-1), November 10, 2006, Albany, NY. He is survived by many friends. For 60 years he was a member of the Plumbers & Steamfitters Union, Local #7 in Albany.

Webb, Charles W. (616-F), August 12, 2006, Dalton, GA. He is survived by his wife and a daughter. Charlie was the highest-ranking non-com in the 616th, and author of a book about the unit that is available for purchase from his widow.

Zinke, Paul (Div-HQ), August 18, 2006, Oakland, CA. He is survived by his wife Marcella, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, and a brother. He was professor emeritus of environmental science at University of California-Berkeley, and an authority on forest soils. He mapped and defined the relationships between soils and vegetation in forest systems across the West, including California.
TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION, INC.
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e-mail: tenthmtnfdn@nsp.org

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