

BELVEDERE

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR SOLDIERS OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

VOLUME 36

2007

NUMBER 1

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."



REUNION UPDATE

Bob Carlson (86-L)

The Hale and Farewell reunion committee is meeting monthly dedicated to having a very high quality 2007 reunion. Our commander **Hugh Evans** (85-A,C), and **George Loudis** (86-H), our Financial Officer, are running a tight ship and keeping us in line. We estimate that around 800+ will attend with about an equal number of descendants and veterans. We don't call this our final reunion because we know that the descendants are ready to take over the reins, planning a return to Italy in 2009 and a Tenth Reunion in 2010. The Survey Cards show that some 400 are planning to attend, including many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Kate Raabe (desc. 86-MED) and her Descendant's committee are working on activities for youngsters and teenagers. We are struggling with how best to handle the costs for youngsters. Those who are organizing Unit get-togethers must plan and arrange programs and meeting rooms on their own.

Earl Clark (87-HQ-1) has been named Honorary Chairman. Debbie Gemar, an Honorary Member who recently retired from the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center at the Denver Public Library has designed a beautiful, artistic Registration Form. Joe Fennessey (10th INF) will organize a place and time for golf, but there will be no official Reunion Golf Tournament.

Frontier Airlines is offering dis-

counted fares for travel to the reunion. Traveling by AMTRAK, bus or car are other options.

Abbie Kealy (desc.86-L), will show her new video each day on a continuing basis in a designated film room. The Living History group, headed by David Little, will set up its fine display of original equipment and gear.

The cost of the post-reunion Tennessee Pass Monument — Cooper Hill — Camp Hale Tour with lunch at Cooper Hill will be \$50 per person. At Camp Hale the folks will visit several sites, including the new Bailey Bridge across the Eagle River. The Resource Center Tours will cost \$10 and will run all day Friday August 3 and Saturday morning August 4. About 350 people will be able to go on these behind-the-scenes tours. Those wishing to go to downtown Denver for any reason, such as seeing the magnificent new Art Museum, can use the new light rail system from a station near the Marriott.

John Litchfield's (86-L,10-HQ) Memory Book will include some 10th Mountain Division history and, if possible, at least one photo of each veteran who attends the Reunion. There will be a professional photographer at the Reunion.

There will be a lot to do at this reunion and many of your old friends will be there, so all we can say is "Y'all come!"

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



Christmas 1944, A Co. 86th on the move in Italy. Seated l to r: Herb Grapes, Ed Flabetich and Bob Jardine. Standing l to r: unknown, Peter Guimond, Blaine Hunter, unknown, George Robinson, Al Frasca.

Submitted by Bob Jardine



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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 identified by the President. (Article IV, Section 2, National By-Laws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.).

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Chairman of the Board
Nate Morrell
13120 County Route 156
Watertown, NY 13601

President
John J. Duffy
P.O. Box 750888
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Senior V.P.
Steve Coffey
1630 York Hills Lane
Reston, VA 20194

Secretary
Paul C. Kitchen, Jr.
218 Terminal Avenue
Erdenheim, PA 19038

V.P.-Data Acquisition and Analysis
John Imbrie
55 Pamden Lane
Seekonk, MA 02771

V.P.-Public Relations
Richard M. Wilson
P.O. Box 1255
Grantham, NH 03753

V.P. Programs
Al Condo
3424 Ivy Lane
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Treasurer
Daniel Murphy, CPA
7 Gage Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Quartermaster
Frank Thornton
112 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

BLIZZARD Editor
Sally Fricke Oesterling
9700 Cottrell Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20903

Historian
Howard Koch
12203-37 Santa Gertrudes Ave.
La Mirada, CA 90638

Film Librarian
H. Newcomb Eldredge
P.O. Box 539
Newport, NH 03773

Chaplain
Rev. Webster G. Barnett
9303 Lafayette #3
Bainbridge, WA 98110

Resource Center Liaison
Hugh Evans
768 Rockway Place
Boulder, CO 80303

Fort Drum Liaison
Pat Muir
20104 Ball Road
Black River, NY 13612

Art Director
Charles D. Hunt
410 Redspire Drive
Greenville, SC 29617

Membership Chair
Nancy Bagshaw
P.O. Box 683
Aquebogue, NY 11931

Webmaster
David Little
1198 Thornbury Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Executive Director
Mike Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Chairmen Emeriti
Earl E. Clark
M.N. "Mac" MacKenzie
Hugh Evans
Arthur F. Muschler*
Paul J. Gunderman
Dean Carmichael
*Deceased

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona
H. Philip Lieberman
4519 W. Hayward Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301

Armadillo
Steven Worley
4618 Carleen Road
Houston, TX 77092

Big Sky
Jim Walsh
P.O. Box 305
Stanford, MT 59479

Delaware River Valley
Patricia Thornton
112 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Fort Drum
Mike Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Lower Michigan
Harrison Coleman
43000 12 Oaks Crescent
Unit 5033
Novi, MI 48377

Metropolitan New York
Jay Charles
20 Stuyvesant Oval
Apartment 4B
New York, NY 10009

Midwest
Jacon pollack
5260 Gulf Mexico Drive 406
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Mt. Rainier
Karl Stingl
10301 242nd Place SW
Edmonds, WA 98020

New England
John D. Barton
692 Hope Street
Bristol, RI 02809

North Central
Louis F. Anderson
3504 Valento Circle
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Northwest
Ed Flabetich
6448 SW Loop Drive
Portland, OR 97221

Roadrunner
Sidney L. Foil
8524 Evangeline Avenue NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Rocky Mountain
George Loudis
1 Sutherland Court
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Sierra Nevada
Robert Yank
19416 Marna Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

Southeast Chapter
Al Partridge
504 Eppinger Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Southern California
Howard Koch
12203-37 Santa Gertrudes
La Mirada, CA 90638

Upper Peninsula
Erwin O. Hollmann
W 5632 Boat Landing Lane
Peshtigo, WI 54157

Upstate New York
William A. Morrison
341 Wormer Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Utah
Sandy Eldredge
3939 Hale Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

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 listings. The first 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

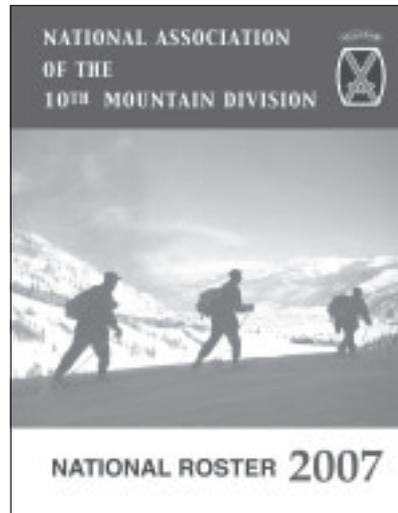
Association — a truly remarkable record.

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.

OFFICERS			
President	Mike Plummer	10th Mt. Div. (Lt.)	Watertown, NY
Vice President	Steve Coffey	Descendant	Reston, VA
Secretary	Gil Pearsall	10th Mt. Div. (Lt)	Carthage, NY
Treasurer	Dan Murphy	Descendant	Bedford, NH
APPOINTED POSITIONS			
Executive Director	Craig Boss	10th Mt. Div. (Lt)	Lowville, NY
Quartermaster	Frank Thornton	Descendant	Bala Cynwyd, PA
<i>Blizzard</i> Editor	Felicity Hallanan	Friend of the 10th	Sandy Creek, NY
Membership Chair	Ken Lopez	10th Mt. Div. (Lt)	Carthage, NY
Scholarship Commission Chair	Mike Miller	10th Mt. Div. (Lt)	Watertown, NY
Webmaster	David Little	Honorary	Denver, CO
Ft. Drum Liaison Division Command	Sgts. Major	10th Mt. Div. (Lt)	Ft. Drum, NY

EVENTS

DATE	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	LOCATION
Last Thursday of each month	Northwest	Luncheon	Milwaukie, OR
March 6-15	Rocky Mountain	Ski-in	Frisco, CO
March 23-25	New England	Ski in	Pico Peak, VT
March 26	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Pine, CO
April 15	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Seattle, WA
April 28	Northwest	Pick & Plant	Highway 26
April 30	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Pine, CO
May 1	Rocky Mountain	Trash Bash	Highway 40
May 8	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Gig Harbor, WA
May 16-18	North Central	Reunion	North Branch, MN
May 28	10th Mountain Division Foundation	Memorial Day Service	Tennessee Pass
June 11-14	Midwest	Reunion	Springfield, IL
June 12	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Seattle, WA
June 12	Mt. Rainier	Descendant Dinner	Seattle, WA
June 16	Washington DC	Flag Day Picnic	Holeywell's
June 25	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
June 26	Rocky Mountain	Trash Bash	Highway 40
June 27-30	Fort Drum	Reunion	Fort Drum, NY
July 10	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Lake Cle Elum, WA
July 15	Northwest	Picnic	Wieprecht's
July 21	Northwest	Pick & Plant	Highway 26
July 30	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
August 2-5	National Association	Reunion	Denver, CO
August 14	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Rainier, WA
August 15	Northwest	Luncheon	Timberline, OR
August 27	Rocky Mountain	Luncheon	Lone Tree, CO
August 28	Rocky Mountain	Trash Bash	Highway 40



Abbie Kealy filming in Afghanistan.



Abbie on Italy shoot with cameraman Richard Chisolm.

"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

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER REPORT

RESOURCE CENTER HELPS VETERANS TOO. 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 material we have. We separated this 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.

For documentary material, contact:

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

For artifacts, contact:

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

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 battlefield 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 original music score completes the film and sets the scene for the 10th, from their early days to current 10th vets now recuperating at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC.

A website dedicated to "The Last Ridge" is in development to provide in-

formation about airdates around the country, as they become known. Visit www.lastridge.com for local airtimes, as well as behind-the-scenes stories and neat stuff we couldn't fit in the program.

Once the program is released, it will also be available for sale on VHS and DVD. The DVD version will include comprehensive bonus features about the production, in-depth interviews with additional vets, and battle re-enactments not featured in the program. The website, will provide additional details on how to order.

I cannot thank you enough for all your support, enthusiasm and interest in "The Last Ridge."

90 POUNDS OF RUCKSACK

Tom Brooks (85-G)

It was said that the Army allowed seven weeks for acclimatization at Hale. **Jim Chandler** (85-G), **Aarne Jackson** (87-I,L) and I arrived at Camp Hale the first week in August, 1943. We were assigned to 90-L and issued our equipment — from canteens to rucksacks, sleeping bags and the M-1 Garand rifle. Calisthenics and close-order drill the next morning 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 spewed 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 claustrophobic. 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-covered hills. Our CO told us we could expect to see action by the first of the year. Our officers harped on Japanese methods of fighting. Some fellows anticipated that we would land on some mountainous South Pacific island.

There were classes on map reading, use of the compass and reconnaissance. A Staff Sergeant tossed a stick of dynamite amongst his waiting class. He laughs as they scatter, hit the ground, panic. Holding the dynamite, he says, "You can cut it, break it, burn it. It can't hurt you. "But this" he adds, holding a small square cap, "can blow your hand off." He attaches the dynamite cap, lights the fuse, and tosses the dynamite down hill where it explodes with a satisfactory thump. The bivouac ended with a forced march back to camp. Showers, clean clothes after four weeks of accumulated crud were sheer pleasures.

After the bivouac, Co. L spent a week on the firing range. When the snow came, we were issued skis, poles, parkas and pants. And so we skied, yes? No! You were not allowed to ski until you had classes at Cooper Hill. Meanwhile, when we went out on exercises we humped around in waist deep snow with our skis and poles tied to our rucksacks, making an A-frame. Our ski classes began in early January: sidestep, herringbone, snow-plow, stem-christie. Weekends we skied on our own. The ski course ended with a mile-and-a-half run down from the top of Cooper Hill, the platoon geared up with rifles and rucksacks. On turns, you had to take care that the weight on your back did not pull you around. One day we were ordered to turn in our ski boots for a pair of mountain boots. They were designed, we were told, for skiing and climbing. In truth, they were, along with the mountain tent, among the worst

equipment issued in the Tenth.

The Army transferred "volunteers" from the 538th Armored and the 647th Tank Destroyer infantry to fill out the Division. Many were southerners; most could not ski. The 90th enlisted men were filtered into companies throughout the Tenth. I was assigned to 85-G's Second Platoon. First Lieutenant Ray Zabersky took the platoon to a hill — open slopes and a scatter of trees. "I'm making a run. Follow me. Those who make it to the bottom without falling are free to do what they want the rest of the day." Those who made it went off to loaf, fool around or ski other parts of the slope. And so it went until late in the afternoon, the last man finally made it down without a fall. Zabersky became Company commander. One late afternoon, G Company was hung up behind a stop-and-go line of companies returning to camp after an exercise. Zabersky climbed out of the roadway, shouted, "G Company follow me!" We showered, dined and were off to the PX or the movies when the bedraggled mountaineers finally reached camp.

In late February, early March we were out in the field, running problems. Mountain tents miraculously disappeared. We found it best to stamp out with skis a slit trench in the snow, lay out a shelter half then a sleeping bag. Our down bags were superb — comfy, though sometimes we woke covered by a night's snowfall. During the D-Series war games, which started on March 26, 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 at the center of the circle. Some nights, someone would go on sick call and return with a bottle of cough medicine. Each would take a sip. At that altitude, the codeine gave one a mild high. D-Series ended on April 15, Easter Sunday. The Division flunked, largely as someone put it, while the men could ski they did not see skis as a means of moving from one firing line to another. We were condemned — 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 fooling around. At the end of the day, the company was stretched across a large bowl, the snow mass moved and every man turned skis and schussed. At the bottom, everyone was relieved that an avalanche did not develop. 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.



Tom Brooks at Camp Hale, 1944



CAMP HALE'S LAST C.O.

Sidney Peterman (87-H)

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 with **Harold Stout** as 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 surrendered 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 of H Co., 2nd Battalion, 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. This is quite a coincidence, and as you can appreciate, I think of him often as it seems he is following in my footsteps, though in a different part of the world.



Tennessee Pass in a snowstorm

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 four 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.

On 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 sergeant came 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 very ancient and dirty train with ornate interior woodwork, clearly taken out of moth balls 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. ROSENFELD (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 a 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.



Quartermaster's Corner

Quartermaster – Frank Thornton

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

- Blazer patches for your Class A's: \$10.00 including postage
- 10th Mountain Division Neckties: \$45.00 including postage

BOOK SALE: LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE

- *Mission Udine: The 10th Mountain Division at the Yugoslav Border May 19 to July 17, 1945*
by Thomas R. Brooks and John Imbrie, 2005. \$25 including postage.
- *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.
- *International Federation of Mountain Soldiers: Its Concepts and Creation*
by M.N. "Mac" MacKenzie, 2005. \$25 including postage.

Other sale items:

Collectors Item, copy of 1945 Blizzard, \$8.00 with shipping.

Ask about the 10th Wall Posters sale!

Place your orders with your 10th Quartermaster Frank Thornton.

Email: patfrank4@verizon.net • Phone: 610-667-2911
12 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE
www.10thmtdivassoc.org

COMBAT SKI PATROLS

Al Field (85-I)

In the *Blizzard* 2006 No. 2, page 5, **Henry Klingman's** (86-HQ-1) 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 Vidiciatico on skis at dark..."
- **Bill Thompson** went out on a ski patrol with 86-B led by **Carl Caspersen**
- **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 Bagni 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 Vidiciatico 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 Thivridge**. Following are excerpts from those Morning Reports:

- January 13, 1945 (Vidiciatico, Italy). Patrol activity. No contact. First ski patrol sent out.
- January 14, 1945 (Vidiciatico, 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 Fanher** (all 86-B).

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

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 colors. Portions of the ceremony were presided over by descendent Flint Whitlock, **Dick Over** (110-SIG) and **Col. Frank Romano** (86-K), Chairman Emeritus of the Foundation.

The guest speaker was Col. Michael Kershaw, Commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) from Ft. Drum, New York. Col. Kershaw spoke from his heart about what it meant to be part of this Division and able to walk in the footsteps of the men of the World War II 10th Mountain Division.

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 Raabe, and The 10th Mountain Division Living History Group, organizer of the ceremony.



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

JOHN HUBER, CENTENARIAN

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 bachelors." 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.



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.

DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Dick Wilson (85-M)

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 organi-

zations. 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 Trombetta, 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.

BACK TO THE HIGH COUNTRY

Vincent Macaluso (86-G)

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 macaluso03@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.

NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Snowmass, CO, March 2006



4 track skiing is for persons missing one or 2 legs who are able to use their prosthetic limbs. Pictured is an Army veteran, a right leg amputee injured in Vietnam.



3 track skiing is for persons able to ski on one leg using outriggers. Pictured is an Army veteran who lost his leg in an explosion in Afghanistan.



Slider. A skier with weak low extremities wears a strap-on frame that enables him to stand upright. He is accompanied by an instructor/guide.



Mono skiing is for persons who don't have use of their legs and ski sitting down. Pictured is a Korean War veteran.

IMPORTANT DATE!

**NATIONAL REUNION
IN DENVER**

AUGUST 2-5, 2007

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 David M. Hierholzer
1-32 INF • July 2006

CPL Regelio R. Garza, Jr.
1-32 INF • August 2006

PFC James P. White
1-32 INF • August 2006

PFC Andrew R. Small
1-32 INF • August 2006

PVT Joseph R. Blake
1-32 INF • August 2006

PFC Wakkuna Jackson
710 BSB • August 2006

SPC Christopher F. Sitton
710 BSB • August 2006

SPC Robert E. Drawl
1-32 INF • August 2006

CPL Jeremiah S. Cole
2-87 INF • August 2006

CPL Fernando D. Robinson
1-32 INF • October 2006

CPL Angelo J. Vaccaro (Medic)
1-31 INF • October 2006

SPC Jason A. Lucas
2-30 INF • October 2006

MAJ Douglas E. Sloan
1-32 INF • October 2006

SGT Charles J. McClain
3 BSTB • October 2006

PFC Alex Ocequera
1-32 INF • October 2006

Operation Iraqi Freedom August 2006-January 2007

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

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

PVT Thomas J Hewett
1-89 CAV • 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 Dorff*
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, and this is usu-

ally 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.



Gen. Colin Powell awards Purple Hearts to 10th Light soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital. They are l to r: Sgt. Nathan Toews, Sgt. Moody, Sgt. Dustin Dixon, PFC Robert Blanchard, and Spec. Steven Beson (receiving Purple Heart).



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

Descendant **BULLETIN BOARD**

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR DESCENDANTS OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

VOLUME 9

2007

NUMBER 1

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. Executive 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 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.

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 locat-

ing 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.10thmtdivassoc.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.

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, Georgia, 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.

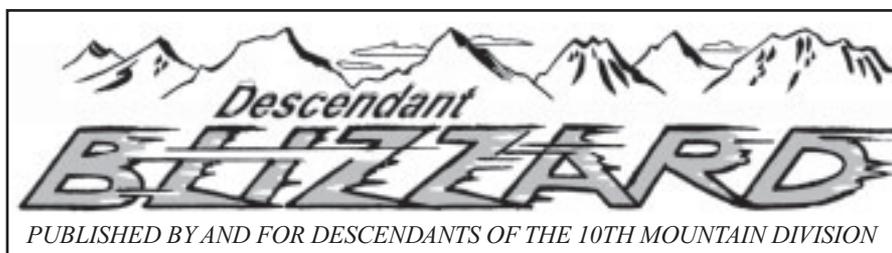
Vires Montesque Vincimus



Val and Cruz Rios at Montecatini during the 2006 Sempre Italia Tour.

JOIN THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS

It's easy. Go to the web site, 10th Mountain Division Descendants, and click on Descendant Application Form.



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

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(* denotes Executive Committee)

Arizona Chapter

Mary (Bockelmann)
Broughton
PO Box 25964
Prescott Valley, Arizona
86312-5964
ruffrider@commspeed.net

Armadillo Chapter

Steven T. Worley
731 Kreutzberg
Boerne, TX 78006
sworley@ci.sat.tx.us

Big Sky Chapter

James Walsh
PO Box 305
Stanford, MT 594579
Waltana98@yahoo.com

Delaware River Valley Chapter

Patricia Finn Thornton
112 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
patfrank3@verizon.net

Fort Drum Chapter

Mike Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601
PLUMMIKE@aol.com

Lower Michigan Chapter

To be assigned

Metro New York Chapter

Donald Perkins,*
Treasurer
3511 85th Street, Apt 9H
Jackson Heights, NY
11372-5505
nbcushman@yahoo.com

Midwest Chapter

Patricia LaRocca
1151 Parkside Court
Carol Stream, IL 60188
pattylarocca327@yahoo.com

Mt. Rainier Chapter

Richard Morse
4812 NE 40th Street
Seattle, Washington
98126-9164
morse32@comcast.net

New England Chapter

Susan Hagerman
PO Box 60
Enfield Center, NH 03749
sue.m.hagerman@valley.net

North Central Chapter

Nikki Fahey

Northwest Chapter

To be assigned

Roadrunner Chapter

To be assigned

Rocky Mountain Chapter

To be assigned

Sierra Nevada Chapter

Val Rios
6816 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
vrrios913@aol.com

Southeast Chapter

Larry Fields, **Chaplain**
6300 Deane Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
lfields@cbcbearden.org

Southern California Chapter

Mary Roddick Ghan
25642 La Cima
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
mghan@Cox.net

Upper Peninsula Chapter

Marilyn Kahl
1738 Wilkinson Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
mkahl@maisd.k12.mi.us OR
upsnowdancer@aol.com

Upstate New York Chapter

To be assigned

Utah Chapter

Ron Sawdey
2016 Emerson Ave
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
risawdey@comcast.net

Washington, DC Chapter

Pamela Pikla
3707 Red Grove Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
pam_pikla@yahoo.com

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Val Rios

President
6816 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
Vrios913@aol.com

Martha J. Hays,*

Legal Counsel
Ballard Spahr Andrews
& Ingersoll, LLP
1735 Market St. 51st Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
hays@ballardspahr.com

Patricia Finn Thornton*

Past President
112 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
patfrank3@verizon.net

Denise Taylor

Quartermaster
4075 Depew Street
Wheatridge, CO 80212
mountaingirl555@msn.com

Sharon Ahrens*

Secretary
34 Johnny Cake Lane
New Hartford, CT 06057
sea1946@yahoo.com

Larry Wilson

VP-Chapter Coordinator
PO Box 3
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
lwilson@aboutmontana.net

Sandy Eldredge*

VP- Publicity
3939 Hale Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84124
sandyeldredge@utah.gov

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Susan Hagerman

New England Chapter

Denise Taylor

Quartermaster

Sharon Ahrens

Secretary

Pamela Pikla

Washington, DC Chapter

RESOURCE COMMITTEE DENVER LIBRARY

Abbie Kealy

5316 Glen Falls Rd.
Reisterstown, MD 21136
Abbiekealy@comcast.net

ON BELAY PROJECT

Pam Pikla

3707 Red Grove Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21220
Pam_pikla@yahoo.com

GOLD STAR 10TH MOUNTAIN DESCENDANTS

Norman Burkey

308 Colgate Dr.
Forest Hill, MD 21050
normanburkey@comcast.net

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Myrna Hampton

4803 Monterey St.
Carmel, CA 93923
mchofcarmel@sbcglobal.net

10TH MOUNTAIN DESCENDANT MERIT

SCHOLARSHIP

Val Rios

6816 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
Vrios913@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Finn Thornton (Desc. 85 A & L)

"This is not the end.

It is not the beginning of the end.

But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

As my six-year term comes to a close, I cannot help but recall Winston Churchill's 1940's quote. Can it be that 10th Descendants, Inc is moving beyond the beginning stage of our organization?

What began as a long held vision became reality in 1998 when then Association President Dean Carmichael established a Steering Committee to explore the feasibility of a Descendant Organization. After a year of exploratory meetings and mentoring, assistance and encouragement from many 10th Mtn veterans, 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc came into being in 1999 with first president, Kate Raabe, establishing the legal and financial foundation for a strong organization. By 2001, 10th Descendants faced the challenges of growing the membership nationwide and establishing viable projects that honor our 10th Mtn soldiers and carry on their legacy.

Uniqueness and a distinct difference define the men who served in the 10th Mountain Division, and it is no surprise that their descendants want to honor these men. In 2001, I began my journey with a highly talented, dedicated and creative leadership team of Don Perkins, Sharon Ahrens, Martha Hays, Jill Hahn, Val Rios, Larry Wilson, and Sandy Eldredge, all who have worked tirelessly for 10th Descendants. They shared the same passion to develop 10th Descendants into a respected national organization that will ensure our WWII soldiers would not be forgotten. The officers and the Board created an atmosphere of open communication and participation among all descendants throughout the country, welcoming any form of service. As they say, "many hands make light work" and one can realize this through the 1,000 plus members and the involvement of descendants throughout the country as they became involved in the operations of the Chapters.

As we near 62 years following the end of WWII, we are faced with the alarming reality of saying goodbye to our veterans and their wives. While we can intellectualize the realism of life's cycle, our emotional side finds difficulty in letting go. As we lose our WWII Generation, the lasting significance of their 10th Mtn experiences will depend on whether younger generations of 10th Descendants are aware of the values

and events that shaped the lives of these men and women. 10th Descendants are fortunate that the 10th veterans have established the means to understand their legacy by establishing a WWII 10th Mtn Database that documents the military history of all the soldiers who served in the Division. They housed WWII Database in the Resource Center at the Denver Library along with their personal as well as other military memorabilia. This important and historically significant legacy must be preserved.

With the intention of preserving and enhancing the legacy of the WWII 10th Mountain soldiers, the Descendant Board of Directors at their 2006 Board Meeting in Washington, DC organized Action Plans that will maintain a partnership with the National Association and a relationship to The Foundation and to the 10th Mountain Division (Light). The accomplishment of these Actions Plans will safeguard the 10th Mtn legacy for future generations; however, it will depend on the dedication and involvement of the next 10th Descendant leadership team.

New leadership and new ideas insures the growth of any organization. New President Val Rios, son of Cruz Rios, 87-K, from Sierra Nevada Chapter will lead 10th Descendants into the next phase of development. Val is one of those exceptional individuals who live the legacy of service modeled by his father. Val and his team will accept the challenge of establishing new connections and recognizing common ground in the historical experience of our WWII 10th Mountain soldiers.

In conclusion, to the many veterans and descendants who have provided guidance and support and made my role as President one of joy and pleasure, I extend a heartfelt thank you. These last six years have provided friendships and experiences beyond what I had anticipated. I am especially indebted to John Duffy and John Imbrie who were always available for advice and guidance. A final thank-you goes to my husband Frank whose financial and emotional support enabled me to honor my father, Captain Fred Finn, and all my dear friends who served in the WWII 10th Mountain Division. These last six years have provided friendships and experiences that have enriched my life.

Therefore, in closing, this is not an end but the beginning of the next phase for 10th Descendants. Sempre Avanti!

DESCENDANTS NATIONAL OFFICERS

Term of Offices: 2007 through 2009

President	Val Rios Father: Cruz F. Rios, Jr., 87-K	Vrios913@aol.com
Executive Vice President	Steve Coffey Father: Albert Coffey, Jr., 87-F	coffey_steve@bah.com
Treasurer	Don Perkins Father: Ruso H. Perkins, 87-I	nbcushman@yahoo.com
Secretary	Sharon Ahrens Father: Rodman C. Ahrens, 85-C	sea1946@yahoo.com
Vice President Chapter Coordinator	Larry Wilson Father: Ross Wilson, 87-HQ-1	lwilson@aboutmontana.net
Vice President Membership & Database	Pam Pikla Father: Hassell G. Vass, 10-AT-A	pam_pikla@yahoo.com
Vice President Special Events and Public Relations	Sandy Eldredge Father: Newc Eldridge, 85-L	sandyeldredge@utah.gov



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.

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.

bryanpullen@cablone.net
tracy@daneman.com
email4tollman@earthlink.net

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 veteran **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) Coffey, Susan (Miller) Alexander, Joy (Hadsell) 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** (86-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 seen action in North Africa and Southern 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 egalitarianism 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 Thunderbolt 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 three soldiers of the book 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 my generation 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 readers 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 affection 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 **Jeddie Brooks** (86-F) gave my 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 inevitable 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 "Mistakes I've Made." This must-see session will be led by "The Last Ridge" television producer Abbie Kealy,

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.



Abbie Kealy and Bill Bealmear videotaped 28 hours of oral histories on the Viva Italia Tour in May-June 2003. Here they interview Jerry Nash.



SOUTHEAST

Ray Zelina (605-A)

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 **Moe 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). Moe and Joe 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 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 Dolores? This time she hasn't been forgotten. A trip to Tarpon Springs to sample the Greek food is mandatory and the

chapter fulfilled that mandate at the Helias 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. Dottie and **Art Ramsdell** (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, accordionist 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 Rosenfield** (85-E) host at Melbourne and Yvonne and **Bill Dyer** (87-E) at Sarasota. On February 18th, the Southeast 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 Conness Gillespie 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.



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)

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** (605-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 a faceless and tenacious enemy in warfare vastly different from what we encountered in Italy. Their undaunted 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 Garnet Hill Lodge on October 4-5. There was

a comprehensive presentation on our National Foundation by Tommy Thompson (desc. 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 Santasiero** (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 Ceremony 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 Krause**, our new chaplain **Howard Sebald** (605-A), Jean and **Fred Vetter** (86-MED-3), Emmy and **Phil Santasiero**, Shirley and **Horton Durfee** (86-L), **Ruso 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 worthy mountaineer. Veterans of the Tenth paying their respects were Majorie and **Carl Newton** (86-C), Mugsy and **George Fuge** (86-C), Shirley and **Horton Durfee**, Jane and **Pete Austin** (10-HQ), Betty and **Jeff Benson** (86-C), Charlotte and **Duane Smith** (85-HQ-3), **Jacques Parker** (86-C), and **Bill Morrison**.

FORT DRUM CHAPTER REUNION

Mike Plummer (10 Lt., Ret.)

Come to the beautiful North Country June 27-30, 2007. Celebrate your role in the history 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 Operations; Memorial Service. Lunch at a Ft. Drum dining facility with soldiers; visit PX/clothing sales; bus tour of the Post; visit the Mountain Fest equipment/weapon displays; Division and Veterans pass-in-review. Return to hotel or stay for concert and fireworks display.
- **Friday, June 29:** Winery Tour; Thousand Islands boat cruise; unit dinners.

- **Saturday, June 30:** General membership business meeting; Clayton Boat Museum and Sackets Harbor; 1812 Battlefield tours; farewell banquet.
- **Sunday, July 1:** Depart, or stay for a great North Country 4th of July celebration.

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 Climb to Glory happening. Any questions? Email Mike Plummer at plummike@aol.com or phone: 315 782-4178

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Bob Carlson (86-L)

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 Gordon (ASSOC), **Ed Halstead** (86-G, 87-L), **Gene Hames** (85-K), William Hoevers (10th Mtn. Marching Band), **Ed Kirches** (87-M), Nancy Kirk (86-H-DESC), **John Litchfield** (86-L&10-HQ), **George Loudis** (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** (86-H), Joan and **Adne Wilde** (86-I), **Charles Woudenberg** (85-L), 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 cover 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 Cpl. Christopher F. Sitton of Montrose. Chris was an Eagle Scout and distance runner 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-E & HQ) and Dave Dearborn (Desc. 85-MED).

Attending the yearly luncheon in Grand Junction in September were Joan and **Bill Farrow** (85-HQ, E), Dave Dearborn, Tylia and Thor Grosword (ASSOC), **Dave Jennings** (87-F & MTG), Charles Leggerio, **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 coordinated 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 Genessee, 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 descendants, under the direction of Kate Raabe (desc. 86-MED), planned and held our annual summer picnic. Over 40 attended including 12 veterans. More and more we will depend on the descendants 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. Gizzi 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.

10th COLD WAR VETERANS

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

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, 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 meeting. 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 funds. 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 descendants organization.

Cliff SiJohn, 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. Northwest 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 Ilertsen** (616-HQ), **Ray Johnson** (85-G), **Stan Walsh** (10-MED-B), **Ed Stowell** (87-HQ-2), **Leo Erhart** (86-B), and **Dan Ruddell** (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 Warriors 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 SiJohn 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.



Recipients of Distinguished Service Awards presented at the Tri Chapter Reunion at Coeur d'Alene Casino in Worley, ID, are, l to r: Ed Stowell, Ray Johnson, Barney Ilertsen, Leo Erhart, Dan Ruddell, Stan Walsh, and Jim Belcher.

NEW ENGLAND

Dick Wilson (85-M)

It was a banner summer for the New England Chapter. In mid-July we held the annual ceremonies at Shirley and **Warren Bartlett's** (87-I) 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 Operation Iraqi Freedom, nine from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, plus the ten troopers who died in the tragic Afghanistan helicopter crash on May 6th. LTC Matthew J. Fitzgerald, commandant of the Army Mountain Warfare School, paid tribute to the eleven Vermont National Guard soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. Memorial prayers were offered by Chaplain James MacIntyre of the Vermont National Guard.

This was the 24th consecutive year that **Newc Eldredge** (85-L) masterminded every aspect of the mountain ascent, including securing overnight bunk space and meals at the Lakes of the Clouds Hut, recruiting climbers, and securing transportation. He was assisted by **Chet Morley** (85-C) and **Tiny McWade**

(87-HQ-3). One statistician on the climb estimated that Newc had trekked approximately 120 miles up the mountain during his 24 years as expedition leader. There were 39 participants in this year's climbing party, including three WWII 10th Mountain Division veterans in addition to Newc Eldredge. They were **Erion Blood** (87-MED-L), **David Cleasby** (10th RECON), and **John Imbrie** (85-C). There were 16 troopers from the Vermont National Guard's 172nd Mountain Battalion and the Army Mountain Warfare School. The remainder of the climbing party were descendants, family members and friends. Approximately 40 other participants used motorized transportation up to the summit from the Glen House. There was not a climbing contingent from the Fort Drum 10th this year due to extensive deployments to Iraq and 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 Laurette 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 climb 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 "hostess 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.



Mt. Rainier chapter board meeting in President Franklin Roosevelt's former private railroad car. Around the table, l to r: Warren Elmer, Royce Ward, Hal Alford, Dale Smith, John Hendron, Karl Stingl, Richard Morse, Vic Eklund, Dave Rabak, Hans Thompson, Gordy Dick, Norm Brooks, and Bob Bagshaw.

MT. RAINIER

Hal Alford (10-HQ)

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 London Broil style, creamy seafood crepes. 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 **AVANLANCHE** 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 forgot 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; **Norman Brooks** (10-AT-A), 1st 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 **Blizzard**. The June 12 dinner is especially for descendants; the May 8th luncheon is especially for NW chapter members; the June 12 luncheon and the July 10th luncheon are especially for Eastern Washington members. The August 14th luncheon at Rainier Golf and Country Club replaces the traditional summer picnic hosted by National Chaplain **Web Barnett** (86-HQ-1). The September 11 dinner at Leavenworth, WA replaces the traditional luncheon at Paradise Inn on Mt. Rainier, which is closed for remodeling.



Following the luncheon at the Wildcat Ski Area, Chapter President Jack Barton (left) presented Bill Osgood with the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of work on behalf of chapter projects and its members.



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 ambulatory 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 Scholar-

ship 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. Adam Judd Shaffer, PFC Paul Linkous, SSG Christopher Howard Hurlbut, PFC 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 G. Vass, 3707 Red Grove Road, Baltimore, MD 21220.



SSG Francisco Osuna (center) received the National Association's Distinguished Service Award from Hassell Vass for his assistance to the Washington DC and Metro New York chapters in his position as 10th Mountain Liaison at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Pam Pikla is at right.

METRO NEW YORK

Jay Charles (85-C)

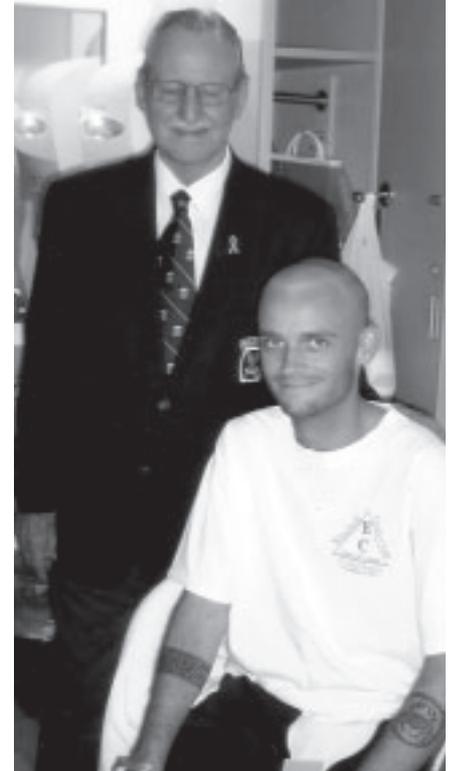
Our adopted platoon is 1st platoon Blackhawk Co., 2nd, 87th, 10th Mountain Division (Lt). Director **Bob O'Malley** (85-L), our chair of the Wounded in Action committee, reports that platoon leader 1st Lt. Derek Martin and 3 troopers were wounded in Afghanistan during an engagement in which 30 Taliban 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.

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), John and Patty LaRocca (**Richard Soutar**, 616-HQ) and Janice and Ron Fuglsang (**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 presided over by chapter president **Robert Foreman** (85-L, M) was held on Thursday at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno. The Momence, Illinois High School honor guard presented the colors and the **Rev. Gerald Lundby** (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 Ostergard**, Secretary, and Carl Nawrot (desc.), Treasurer. The next reunion will be held in June 2007 in Springfield, IL.



Veterans of Midwest chapter at annual chapter meeting September 10-15, 2006, in Bradley, Illinois.

JANE AND PETER AUSTIN, QUARTERMASTERS

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

The tenure of Association Quartermasters Jane and Peter Austin (10-HQ) 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 Sol-*

diers; 10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy 1945, by John Imbrie and Tom Brooks; *Mission Udine: 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!"



Quartermasters Jane and Peter Austin selling their wares in the reception hall at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont, during the IFMS XX Congress.

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 Ranges of British Columbia. For more information, visit www.authorhouse.com.

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



Photo Courtesy of John Imbrie

On April 7, 1945, the 2nd Squad gets ready to leave its bivouac on Hill 866, just south of Mt. della Spe. Back row: Dan Ward, Robert Anderson, Dick Snyder, Walt Neller. Middle row: Clem Paycheck, Jay Charles, Don Olson (with helmet). Front: Jim Gehringer, George Sheeler, Ronald Rothe, and Fred Tennant.

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.



Four members of the same squad — the 2nd Platoon's 2nd Squad, attend the 85-C company reunion in Colorado Springs, September 2006. L to r: Jay Charles, Clem Paycheck, Don Olson, and Walt Neller.

BLIZZARD SCHEDULE

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

SEND MATERIALS TO:

Sally Fricke Oesterling, Editor • 9700 Cottrell Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20903
Fax: (301) 434-7722 • email: sallyoes@verizon.net



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 accouterments from old 10th Division days. This pin was worn by 10th Division Headquarters and Staff personnel. I was aide-de-camp to MG Walter Yeager, 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 Quartermaster. 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 fatigues and field jackets. I have in my collection a desk nameplate for Elmer Powelson who served in the 10th Division's Quartermaster 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 in support of this important outreach activity.

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*.



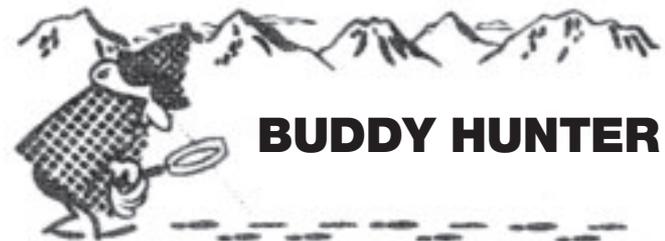
ALL 85-HQ-3



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 Gilronan, 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



Bankhead, John U. (86-I, 86-E, 87-K), July 8, 2006, Culver City, CA. He is survived by his wife Erma.

Boca, Angelo A. (87-L, 85-E, 85-SVC), November 16, 2006, Sharpsville, PA. He is survived by his wife Theresa, a brother, a daughter, 3 sons, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Angelo retired in 1982 after 34 years of service at the Sharon Transformer Division of Westinghouse Electric Corp.

Bohn, John W. (85-L), December 8, 2005, Port Orange, FL. He is survived by his wife Doris, a son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. He worked for the Veterans' Administration in the Bronx, NY, and was a licensed electrical contractor.

Brogan, Kenneth (86-B), September 20, 2006, O'Fallon, MO.

Christina, Joseph L. (85-E), February 1, 2007, Stuart, FL. He is survived by a daughter, 2 sons, and several grandchildren. He was an aircraft electrical inspector for 25 years with Grumman Aircraft in Bethpage, NY, Cape Kennedy and Stuart, FL.

Cormier, Ralph A. (Lefty) (87-HQ-3, 87-L), August 29, 2006, Denver, CO. He is survived by his wife Betty Lou, 4 children, 8 grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

Cummings, Stanley L. (85-B, 86-A), August 10, 2006, Greenfield, MA. He is survived by his wife Jean, 3 children and 7 grandchildren. He served as Assistant District Attorney in Greenfield and in many elective and volunteer capacities. In the early 1980s, he wrote a column for the *Blizzard*, "Hang Overtures," featuring reminiscences of Camp Hale and Italy.

Dahl, Harold W. Jr. (86-E, 86-B), September 9, 2006, Wheat Ridge, CO. He is survived by his wife Ruby, a son and 3 grandchildren. For 50 years he participated in the Roundup Riders of the Rockies annual rides through the Colorado mountains. He ran a builders' supply business in Denver.

Day, Paul E. (10-AT-B), February 28, 2006, Menahga, MN. He is survived by his wife Minnie, 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Edmonds, Dana (86-D, 86-B), January 19, 2007, Ohio Veterans Home, Georgetown, Ohio. He is survived by his wife Florence, 4 daughters, and 1 son.

Ekern, Halvor (87-HQ), March 9, 2006, Arlington, VA. He is survived by his wife, 4 children and one grandchild.

Eridon, John (604-A, 604-B), February 4, 2007, Dearborn, MI. He is survived by his wife Florence, 3 sons, a daughter, and 8 grandchildren. He was an engineer with Ford Motor Co. for 34 years.

Finn, Aloysius Gardner (110 SIG, 87-HQ), December 20, 2006, Carmichael, CA. He is survived by 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He was an insurance broker with the family firm of Finn and Finn Insurance in Santa Cruz, CA.

Garrett, Theodore O. (604-HQ, 604-C), June 13, 2004, Bonham, TX.

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.

Gilman, Stephen H. (86-E, 90-C, 86-I), October 23, 2006, Burlington, VT. He is survived by a son, a daughter and one granddaughter. 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, 86-HQ-1), September 8, 2006, Sunnyvale, CA. He is survived by his wife Betty, a son, a daughter, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Hadley, James Birch (110 SIG, 87-G, 87-K, 87-L, 87-SVC), December 31, 2006, North Adams, MA. He is survived by his wife Norma, 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 brother, 2 sons, a daughter, and 2 grandchildren. He was a trial lawyer in the firm of Wood, Ris and Hames. 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 Coco, and many friends.

Hawley, Sam (86-B), October 4, 2006, Twin Mountain, NH. He is survived by his wife Beverley, 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 Patroller.

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 from 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 sinking of the DUKW on Lake Garda.

Jaffee, Arthur H. (86-B, 10-Recon), 2005, Tampa, FL.

Jensen, Chester E. (86-C), August 12, 2006, Ogden, UT. He is survived by a son, 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.

Kerekes, Carl D. (85-B), December 12, 2006, Grand Rapids, MI. He is survived by his wife Irene, a daughter, 6 stepchildren, his grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He worked in labor relations for Kelvinator, retiring in 1986, and became the Cascade Township Manager for 10 years.

Kuessow, William R. (604-HQ), 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), 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-G, 86-C), November 22, 2006, Laconia, NH. He is survived by his wife Patricia, a daughter, 5 sons, 9 grandchildren, a brother, a sister, and his nephew and nieces. He was an institutional fundraiser, employed by Boston University and Harvard Business School Alumni Fund.

Moos, Lyle W. (87-B), November 30, 2006, Ainsworth, NE. He is survived by a daughter and 2 grandchildren. He was a grocer and head of a dairy products delivery service.

Ralph, Joseph (87-K), April 22, 2006, Baltimore, MD. He is survived by his wife Marie, 2 daughters, 3 sisters, a brother, and 3 grandchildren. He worked for J.H. Williams for 42 years.

Reaske, William (86-A, 85-G), February 4, 2006, Clinton, CT. He is survived by his wife Dena, a daughter, 2 sons, and 2 grandchildren. His career involved the sale of industrial scales.

Roane, Paul M. Sr. (605-A), August 24, 2006, Bath, ME. He is survived by 7 children and 5 grandchildren. He was a tire broker before his retirement.

Sandy, Bobbie (616-B), November 15, 2006, Clarksburg, WVA. He is survived by his wife Willa Jean, and 4 children.

Schmelzer, John Frederick (87-HQ), September 29, 2006, Falls Church, VA. He is survived by a son, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He was a graduate of West Point, class of 1933.

Shuler, Frederick Andrew (86-MED-C), September 6, 2006, Owego, NY. He is survived by his wife Eudora, 2 sons, 2 granddaughters, and his niece and nephew. Fred held 3 Bronze Stars. He worked for the postal service for 10 years, then opened his own business, the K-9 Country Club, a dog breeding, boarding and training center.

Smith, Harold Whitbeck (86-HQ, 86-SVC, 85-K, 86-F, 90-HQ, 87-K, 87-F), June 12, 2006, Tallahassee, FL. He is survived by a son and a daughter, 8 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. He was in the restaurant business, and a member of the International Food Service Executives Association.

Smith, John Milton (85-E), December 4, 2006, Paragould, AR.

Stowell, Edgar Ronald (87-HQ-2, 616-C, 87-B), February 4, 2007, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Betty, a stepdaughter, a stepson, 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. After the war, he was called up again to serve in the Army during the Korean War.

Wagstaff, David G. (86-C), November 3, 2006, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Alice, a sister, 2 sons and 3 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-FA), 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 Mardell, 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.**

Mailing Address:
133 South Van Gordon Street
Suite 200
Lakewood, CO 80228
Tel: (303) 756-8486
e-mail: tenthmtnfdn@nsp.org

Earl Clark, *Chairman of the Board*
Thomas Hames, *President*
Gary Burton, *Executive Vice President*
Hugh Evans, *Senior Vice President*
Kate Raabe, *Senior Vice President*
Denise Taylor, *Vice President*
Jennifer Neville, *Secretary*
Thomas Thompson, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers of the Foundation plus:

Jim Bratsky	Toni Newbill
Trux Dole	Ruso Donald Perkins
John Duffy	Max Raabe
Robbi Farrow	Richard Spotts
Janice Fuglsang	Pat Thornton
Sue Hagerman	Delbert Utgaard
John Litchfield	Steve Wilmot
David Little	John P. Wright

ADVISORY BOARD

All Chapter Presidents

HONORARY BOARD

Stuart Dodge
Eugene Hames
Ralph Nanninga
Frank Romano

IN MEMORY OF

Leonard D. Adams: 10th Mtn. Division Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter

Harold T. Barnes: Bobbie & Bob Emerson

Kurt Beam: Mt. Rainier Chapter

Edmund D. Bennett: Madi Kraus

Robert F. Boyer: Thomas B. Stewart

Giulio Brondoni: Gordon McWade

Lyle B. Bryner: James R. Elefante, Walter H. Stewart

T. Brian Carter: Walter R. Melford, Jean & Fred Vetter

Betty Clark: Loretta & John Engle, Howard R. Koch

Thomas J. Connors: Fay G. Brown, Marie C. Roberts

Richard J. Cooper: Norman J. Ehr Gott

Ralph "Lefty" Cormier: Maxim Technologies, Lynn & Ed Alexander, Shirley E. Baker, Joan E. Ball, Patty & Bruce Berends, Sue Black, Kenneth R. Blum, George P. Cahill, Jan & John Carpenter, John F. Carroll, Mr./Mrs. Thomas Cole, Jean L. Davenport, Judy & Bob Davidson, Arthur C. Delaney, Norman J. Ehr Gott, Loretta & John Engle, Debbie & Mike Fergione, Mary Lou Flater, Norma S. Heinschel, Abbey & Len Kapelovitz, Clarence E. Kentz, Susan & Al Lackner, Angela & James Leibold, Shirley & Jim Levitt, George A. Loudis, Janice & George Mansfield, Virginia L. McGehee, Mr./Mrs. Neil McLagan, Mr./Mrs. Robert D. Morrison, Nancy & John Nelson, Marita & Jack Nicoulin, Max H. Raabe, 10th Mtn. Division Assn. Rocky Mtn. Chapter, Ralph L. Schwartz, Carol & Jim Shearon, Carol & Bill Shepard, Clairl C. Wayman, Richard M. Wilson, Neal Yorker

Valmore F. Cross: Donald A. Linscott, Jr.

Stanley B. Cummings: Janet Richardson

Nancy Delaney: George P. Cahill, Loretta & John Engle, John P. Litchfield, George A. Loudis, 10th Mtn. Division Assn Rocky Mtn. Chapter, Richard M. Wilson, Neal C. Yorker

Francis J. Devaney, Jr.: James R. Elefante, Walter H. Stewart

Arthur G. Draper: Frederick J. Vetter

Theresa Elefante: James R. Elefante

John Eridon: Jaqueline H. Durant

George Firman: Donald W. Kobelin, Joanne Manchester

David Fowler: Thomas B. Stewart

Thomas C. Geelan: B&B Sheet Metal & Roofing, Inc., Donna & Daniel Schroeder, Mary Ellen & John Schulze,

William D. Hackett: Thomas B. Stewart

William A. Hagerman: Ethel A. Ackerson, Bert W. Anger, Irene Callaway, Dr. R. Jack Chase, Jane Cosand, Mary R.

Davison, H. Newcomb Eldredge, Thomas C. Evert, Kay & Bill Farr, Doris G. Griffith, Virginia & John Hagerman, Shirley & Ken Hanson, Jon Lynn Kerchner, Dudley S. Merrill, Nancy & Bud Olsen, Kate Raabe, Jane & Dale Rhoades, Norma & Bill Sprague, Dr. & Mrs. Ray E. Stevens, John E. Terhune, Robert J. Vos, Charles T. Zimmerman

Eugene S. Hames: The Denver Athletic Club, Ray Lego & Associates, Patricia Carson Anderson, National Ski Patrol Attn: Mark Dorsey, Ralph W. Ball, Frankie J. Barr, Peter Burg and Burg Simpson, Eldredge Hersh & Jardine, P.C., George P. Cahill, Laird Campbell, John F. Carroll, Cathy & Walter Chapman, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen E. Connor, Paul D. Cooper, Arthur C. Delaney, Joy & Dick Dirkes, Stuart P. Dodge, Mark N. Dorsey, Bonnie J. Douglas, Norman J. Ehr Gott, Wilma & Howard Erickson, Shirley Frazer Norma & Paul Halttunen & Family, Thomas E. Hames, Verna J. Hames, Carolee and Clarence Hatch, Elaine & Ron Kaminen, Abbie Kealy, James A. Larson, Hover T. Lentz, John P. Litchfield, Terri & Dave Little, 10th Mtn. Division Living History Display Group, Joan C. McKenna, Jerry & Ralph Millie, Carolyn L. Nash, Donald H. Palmer, Mr. & Mrs. George Petersen, Jr., A. Jean Pyle, Dr. & Mrs. M.H. Raabe, Kate Raabe, Susan G. Raymond, Robert P. Reece, Tom Reece, Richard W. Ryman, Kathrine & Bob Shaeffer & Family, John & Winifred Shedd, Edwin S. Small, Agnes V. Vangen, Eleanor & Thomas N. Vincent, Jannet K. Williams, Richard M. Wilson, Manfred G. Wuerslin,

George P. Hays: Thomas B. Stewart

Herbert Howe: Thomas B. Stewart

John M. Huber: Howard R. Koch

Charles H. Johnson: Howard R. Koch

Hollister Kent: Thomas B. Stewart

H. D. Klemme: Thomas B. Stewart

Robert W. Knapp: Betsey B. Farrington

Clarence H. Lapworth: Jean & Dick Anderson, Nancy & Bill Gannett, Barbara I. Hampson, Dudley S. Merrill, Sandra L. Sundin

John McKay: Thomas B. Stewart

Carroll F. McMahon: Norman Ehr Gott

Donald C. McNeill: James R. Elefante

James H. Meadows: Walter H. Stewart

Warren H. Meredith: Harry Reinig

James C. Morehouse: Loretta & John Engle, Clairl C. Wayman

John A. Naess: 10th. Mtn. Division Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter

Morlan Nelson: Thomas B. Stewart

Robert J. Oltmanns: Carole & Jim Kidd, Eva E. Strautins

Harry Penrose: Thomas B. Stewart

Stephen B. Preston: Thomas B. Stewart

Dick Rocker: Marion S. Rocker Estate

Elias Schultz: 10th Mtn. Division Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter

Fred A. Shuler: Howard R. Koch, Robert L. Krause, William Morrison, Philip H. Stevens, Arthur Thompson, Jean & Fred Vetter

Frank S. Staples: Donald A. Linscott, Jr.

Richard D. Stard: Donald A. Linscott, Jr.

Clarence Swedberg: Thomas B. Stewart

Philip Thurston: Alden W. Robinson

Albertina Torri: Joanne Manchester

Eugene R. Verhamme: Joanne Manchester

David G. Wagstaff: Dana D. Atchison, Lloyd F. Athearn, Webster G. Barnett, John Benson, Helen M. Dalton, Harris Dusenbery, Bobbie & Bob Emerson, onnie & Ed Flabetich, Merrie & Arnie Gagnet, Betty R. Hagan, Ron Tonkin Honda, Thomas M. Hyndman, Jr., Howard R. Koch, Russell McJury, 10th Mtn. Division Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter, Zara Pernyi, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Sabin, L. G. Squier, Philip H. Stevens, Evelyn M. Turner, Vernon P. Underwood, Ann-Marie and Richard Updegraff, Jean & Greg Witt

John P. Walsh: Robert L. Krause, William A. Millette, William Morrison, Lawrence E. Stevens

Thomas Wheeler, Jr.: Robert L. Krause

Betty J. Wieprecht: Mary Barnett, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Sabin, Lois & John Woodward

Sewall Williams: Alden W. Robinson

Leon C. Wilmot: Loretta & John Engle

Ross J. Wilson: Thomas B. Stewart

John C. Wright: James R. Elefante, Walter H. Stewart

John Yanakakis: Loretta & John Engle

IMPORTANT DATE!

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